- **BUSINESS / B1**

MVP named 'Management Man of the Year'

- **NEWS / A6**

Remulla, chair of House committees probing 'Garci,' ousted

- **BUSINESS / B1**

Hot money, OFW remittances lift peso to 6-month high of 54.30 to $1

- **ENTERTAINMENT / A2-6**

Pinoy animator at Disney brings lots of life to 'Chicken Little'

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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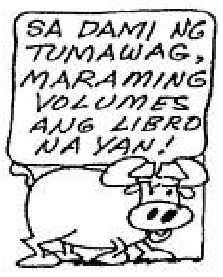
Not only is Garci back, he has written a book


SA DAMI NG TUMAWAG, MARAMING VOLUMES ANG LIBRO NA YAN!

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER FIVE MONTHS IN hiding, former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano is finally coming out, and with a "best seller" book to boot, a

NOT ONLY/ A17

NBI chief in 'deep coma' after suffering severe stroke

By Tina G. Santos
Metro

BUBBLY AND VISIBLY IN HIS ELEMENT AS he presided over a meeting at his office in the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday, Director Reynaldo Wycoco was just winding up a meeting.

NBI CHIEF/ A6

'Garci out next week'

Pichay also says he will seek custody of ex-election official

By Michael Lim Ubac

SOMEWHERE IN MINDANAO, former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano is preparing for a public appearance "to clear my name," possibly next week, he reportedly said in a telephone call to Rep. Prospero Pichay.

"He's here," the Surigao del Sur congressman told the INQUIRER. "Proof of that is he already called me up."

Explaining the 68-year-old Garcillano's reluctance to come out this week, Pichay said he was "creating ripples ... testing the ground."

Garcillano confirmed that he was now in the country, said Pichay. He did not say where Garcillano was for security reasons when he talked to him early yesterday.

Although it remains to be seen whether he could finally put an end to lingering doubts about the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency, Garcillano said he would definitely come out "to clear my name," Pichay said.

Barring any hitches, Garcillano --will make his first public appearance early next week, Pichay said.

In a news conference earlier yesterday, Pichay disclosed that the

GARCI/ A6

JUSTICE
FOR THE VICTIM!

EDWIN BACASMAS

HEAD-TURNING COUNSELS at the Hall of Justice in Olongapo City for the preliminary investigation of the alleged rape of a 22-year-old Filipina by six US Marines. Second from left, lawyers Zorayda Ruth Andam, Maria Shiela Bazar and Christine Sevilla. At right, outside the hall, a Gabriela member wears her purple rage at a rally to support the victim.

Subic rape case: Women lawyers vs all-male team

By Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—THE WOMAN who cried rape was absent, and so were the six American soldiers who were her alleged abusers.

But the court drama in the first rape complaint to threaten to put a strain on RP-US relations began here yesterday with the 22-year-old woman's female lawyers ranged against an all-male defense team.

The lawyers sat on the opposite sides of the table—the women dressed in black suits, the men in *barong*—exchanging arguments that turned alternately tense and light during the two-hour hearing.

Katrina Legarda, lead counsel for the woman, was not present.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and Assistant State Prosecutors Pedrito Rances and Miguel Subio were at the Department of Justice's Olongapo prosecution office yesterday morning, but did not attend the hearing held there starting at 2:25 p.m.

Officials of the US Embassy and an officer of the US Marines were present as "observers," according to embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop.

Lawyer Maria Sheila Bazar told Olongapo City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni that her client was not presenting herself to "protect her privacy."

At least 94 local and foreign journalists had registered to cover the event.

Bazar said the woman's sworn statement had been subscribed before Assistant Prosecutor Andrew Penular of Zambales.

Lussenhop said in a press conference at the end of the hearing that the six soldiers' "physical presence" had not been required by the office of the city prosecutor.

He said that the six Marines "remained in US custody in the Philippines," and that no charges had been filed against them.

Jalandoni had earlier said he expected the soldiers to be pre-

SUBIC RAPE/ A17

Church to hold prayer meeting for GMA, foes

By Christian V. Esguerra

A PRE-CHRISTMAS GATHERING of key political personalities might just provide the needed push toward national reconciliation.

Church leaders and Catholic groups are seeking a concord between President Macapagal-Arroyo and her political foes during the annual Philippine National Prayer Breakfast set at the Manila Hotel on Dec. 7.

Invited to the gathering were former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos and House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Ms Arroyo, hounded by unresolved allegations of vote-rigging and vote-buying, is expected to come face to face with some of her most acerbic critics, like Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Panfilo Lacson and Representatives Francis Escudero and Alan Peter Cayetano.

Aquino, erstwhile supporter of Ms Arroyo, has been calling for her resignation following the release of the "Hello Garci" recordings. *(See related story on Garcillano, this page.)*

CHURCH/ A6

Vatican slams doors on gay seminarians

VATICAN CITY—THE VATICAN says sexually active homosexuals and those who support "gay culture" are unwelcome in the priesthood unless the candidate has overcome homosexual tendencies for at least three years, according to Church document posted Tuesday on the Internet by an Italian Catholic news agency.

The long-awaited document is scheduled to be released by the Vatican next Tuesday. A Church official who has read the document confirmed the authenticity of the Internet posting by the Adista news agency. He asked that his name not be used because the document has not yet been officially released by the Vatican.

The document said that "the Church, while deeply respecting the people in question, cannot admit to the seminary and the sacred orders those who practice homosexuality, present deeply rooted homosexual tendencies or support so-called gay culture."

"Those people find themselves, in fact, in a situation that presents a grave obstacle to a correct relationship with men and women. One cannot ignore the negative consequences that can stem from the ordination of people with deeply rooted homosexual tendencies," it said.

"If instead it is a case of homo-

VATICAN/ A6

'Taking care of kids starts with taking care of moms'

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

ALARMED OVER THE HIGH MATERNAL death rate in the country, the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) is reminding the public that taking care of children begins with taking care of mothers during pregnancy.

At an interfaith forum for children's rights the other day, Unicef said that for every 100,000 live births, at least 170 mothers had died because of complications and infections.

This mortality figure ranks seventh among 16 countries in East Asia included in the study.

East Timor ranks first with 660 deaths for every 100,000 child births while South Korea has the least number of maternal deaths at 20.

"This high rate of maternal deaths puzzles us because of the high functional literacy rate among Filipino women," said Nicholas Alipui, Unicef Philippine representative.

In his presentation in Mandaluyong City, Alipui ranked ma-

TAKING/ A17

LEYTE SHOOTING

Survivor: Soldiers kicked the wounded

By Fe Zamora
in Manila
and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

A FARMER WHO SURVIVED THE Monday shooting at a village in Palo, Leyte, yesterday said that soldiers had lobbed grenades and continuously fired at him and his companions despite their shouts that they were unarmed civilians.

Richard Margallo, chair of the San Agustin Farmer Beneficiaries Multipurpose Cooperative, told the Citizens Congress on Truth and Accountability (CCTA) that the soldiers kicked the wounded and hit with rifle butts those who tried to look at their attackers' faces.

He himself was wounded in the right leg and torso.

Speaking in Filipino, Margallo said: "The soldiers also threatened to kill one of us if we did not surrender our firearms. When I heard that, I thought that if they choose to kill me, I will accept my fate. We have no firearms to surrender."

As many as 19 soldiers belonging to the 19th Infantry Battalion descended on Palo's Barangay San Agustin on Nov. 21, killing seven farmers and wounding more than 10 others.

SURVIVOR/ A17

WELCOME
BRGY. SAN MATEO

DELFIN MALLARI PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

THE SERENITY of towns at the foot of the mystical Mt. Banahaw in Quezon province has been rudely interrupted by military operations, a consequence of a three-hour deadly encounter between government troops and NPA guerrillas on Monday. The rebels retreated to the mountain, government troops are in hot pursuit as villagers flee their homes.

Second FRONTPAGE
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/11/24/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

2 solons want to fetch MJ from US

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF representatives are seeking "custody" of ex-Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez from the United States amid reports his release from a federal prison and subsequent deportation to the Philippines had been delayed because of an "infraction" he allegedly committed while serving his 20-month jail term.

Jimenez, whose real name is Mario Crespo, was originally scheduled to have been deported last Tuesday but was not aboard the plane that was supposed to have flown him to Manila. Jimenez was jailed in Pennsylvania after being convicted of tax fraud and illegal campaign contributions.

A local television station reported last Tuesday that US prison authorities had decided to keep Jimenez in jail longer because of an unspecified infraction he allegedly committed.

US Embassy press attaché Matthew Lussenhop said yesterday that the embassy still had no information on Jimenez's failure to return to Manila as scheduled, and foreign office spokesperson Bert Asuque said the Department of Foreign Affairs was also still waiting for an official report from the Philippine Consulate in New York.

A family friend told the INQUIRER that Jimenez's new arrival schedule would be sometime in December, before his birthday on the 31st.

Another close Jimenez friend told the INQUIRER that Manila Rep. Jose Hizon had written Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo requesting him to make arrangements with the US to turn over Jimenez to him, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, ex-Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama and Undersecretary Reynaldo Roquero of the presidential Office of Coalition Affairs.

Pichay confirmed that the group wants to go to the US to receive Jimenez from US authorities and escort him back to the country. Pichay and Villarama were among those who accompanied Jimenez to the US when he was extradited in 2003.

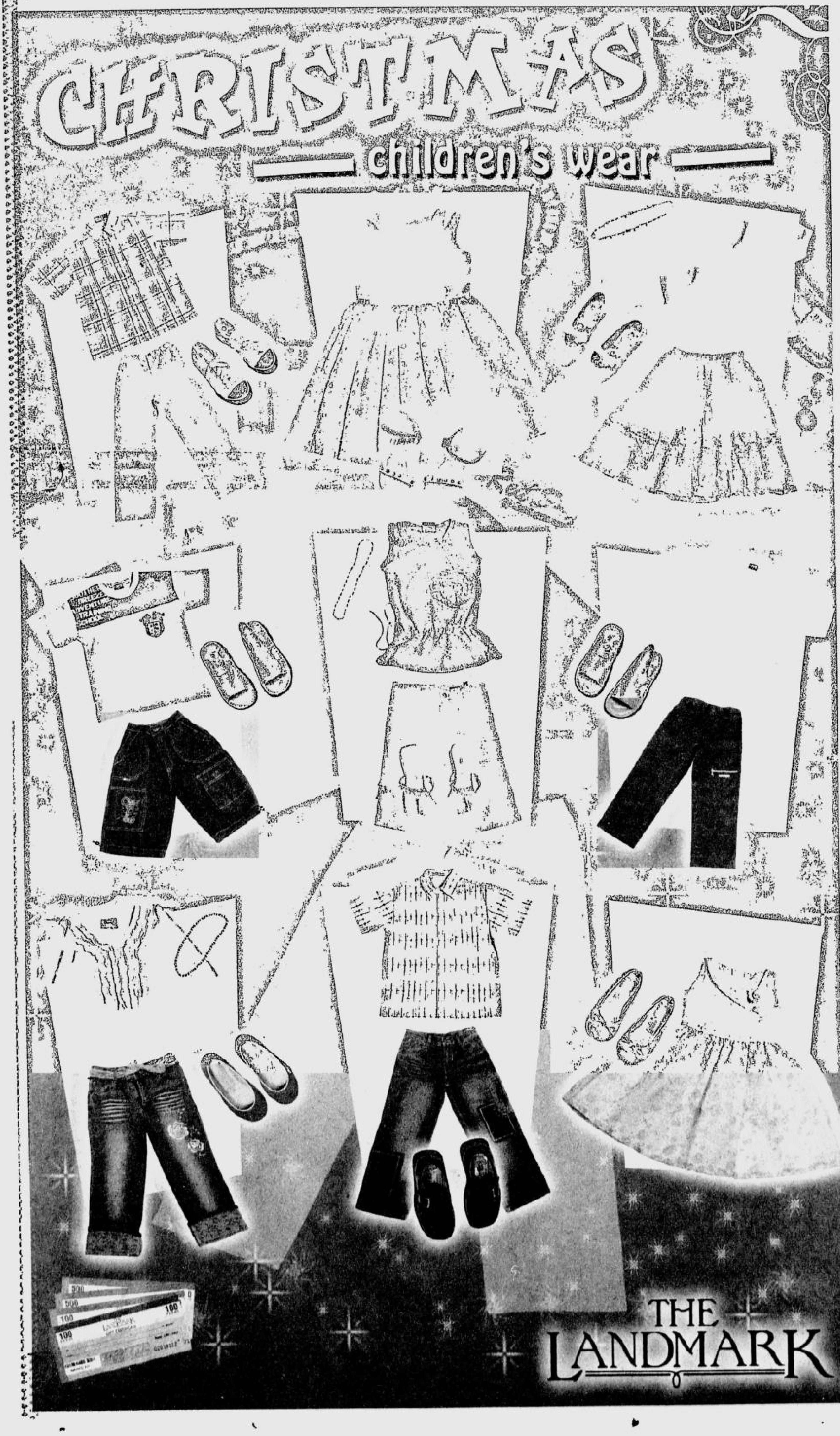
"If there will be arrangements for it, we want to get custody of him," Pichay told the INQUIRER, adding he and his colleagues wanted to ensure there would be no hitches in the arrangements for Jimenez's return.

Pichay said he didn't expect Jimenez, who was handcuffed throughout the flight during his extradition in December 2002, would be subjected to similar inconveniences on his return.

"That was different because he was not convicted yet but now he's a free man," Pichay said.

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio said he saw no problem with the plan of the congressmen to fetch Jimenez and escort him back to the country.

"That's understandable on the part of Congress, especially his former colleagues," Claudio said. *With a report from Volt Contreras*



Magsaysay gets threats for fertilizer fund probe

By TJ Burgonio

WEEKS AFTER THE SENATE STARTED ITS INquiry into the alleged misuse of the Department of Agriculture's P728-million fertilizer fund, the lead probers are now the targets of death threats.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the committee on agriculture and food, said he and his chief of staff have been receiving nasty threats through SMS (short messaging system) after the committee opened an inquiry into the fund scandal.

Magsaysay, who showed reporters yesterday a couple of threats sent by text to his mobile phone on Tuesday night, won't be cowed into canceling today's hearing.

"I'm 67 years old. This is the first time this has happened in my life," he told reporters, but added: "It looks amateurish to me. They don't know me. I'd like to see if they're lowlife or no-life."

In a briefing, the senator disclosed the contents of the text messages which came in at past 9 p.m. Tuesday from 0915-9077994.

One read: "*Isang bala ka lang* (One bullet is all we need to end your life)," while the other read: "*Itigil na ninyo ang pag-iimbestiga ninyo kung ayaw niyong mabura sa mundo* (Stop your probe if you don't want to disappear from the face of the earth)."

Variations of a message

Magsaysay's chief of staff, lawyer Angelo Buenviaje Jr., himself received a variation of the second message at around the same time Tuesday night.

"At first, I became afraid. But this wore off; I've received nastier threats on my life," Buenviaje said in an interview.

The senator theorized the threats came from aides of personalities, who were exposed as having a hand in the disbursement of the fund, widely believed to have been used to boost President Macapagal-Arroyo's presidential campaign in 2004.

"Since we're thoroughly scrutinizing the fund, a lot of people are feeling the heat. That's why they're threatening us. But we're not afraid because what's important is for the truth to come out," he said.

As scheduled, Magsaysay's committee will hold its fourth and final hearing on the fund controversy at 10 a.m. today.

"We are not deviating from our obligation," the senator said. "We have to set an example. This has been happening for some time. It's a waste of taxpayers' money. If we don't act, they'll never stop."

Magsaysay's disclosure of the threats came two days after he bared that Agriculture Undersecretary Belinda Gonzales and Assistant Secretary Felix Montes tried to pressure him to go slow on the inquiry. Both officials denied this.

Magsaysay said that neither he nor his staff felt the need to hire bodyguards in view of the threats.

'We walk alone'

"I can't go on having a bodyguard. It's not like a Magsaysay. We walk alone, but in walking alone, the people are with us," he said. "My bodyguards are the Filipino people, who have suffered enough, and who have been duped and exploited."

New witnesses are expected to appear at today's hearing to corroborate farmers' allegations that the fund was illegally utilized. One witness would testify on the March 24, 2005 murder of journalist Marlene Esperat, who exposed fertilizer fund irregularities, in Sultan Kudarat.

"My friend, a flamboyant but honest journalist, may have stepped on many toes, but they have dirty feet. The documents she left to trusted people are very revealing," Magsaysay quoted the witness as telling him. He, however, did not identify the witness.

The committee also served a new subpoena on Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, former agriculture undersecretary and now Rotary International director and treasurer, who has snubbed the committee's three hearings.

Bolante is being sought by the committee for his key role in the release of the fund.

Erap defense team mocking proceedings, prosecutors claim

By Nelson F. Flores

SPECIAL PROSECUTOR DENNIS Villa-Ignacio yesterday accused the lawyers of former President Joseph Estrada of mocking the judicial proceedings at the Sandiganbayan after the defense failed to present witnesses yet again in the plunder trial of the detained leader.

In a press conference after yesterday's hearing, Villa-Ignacio said the defense panel's continued failure to present credible witnesses and submit the names of new potential witnesses were "a mockery of court proceedings."

He said the Special Division should issue an ultimatum and demand that the defense panel comply with the court's earlier ruling seeking a list of other potential witnesses and a time frame for their presentation.

By contrast, he noted that when the prosecution was presenting its own witnesses, the court had been strict that it followed an agreed time frame.

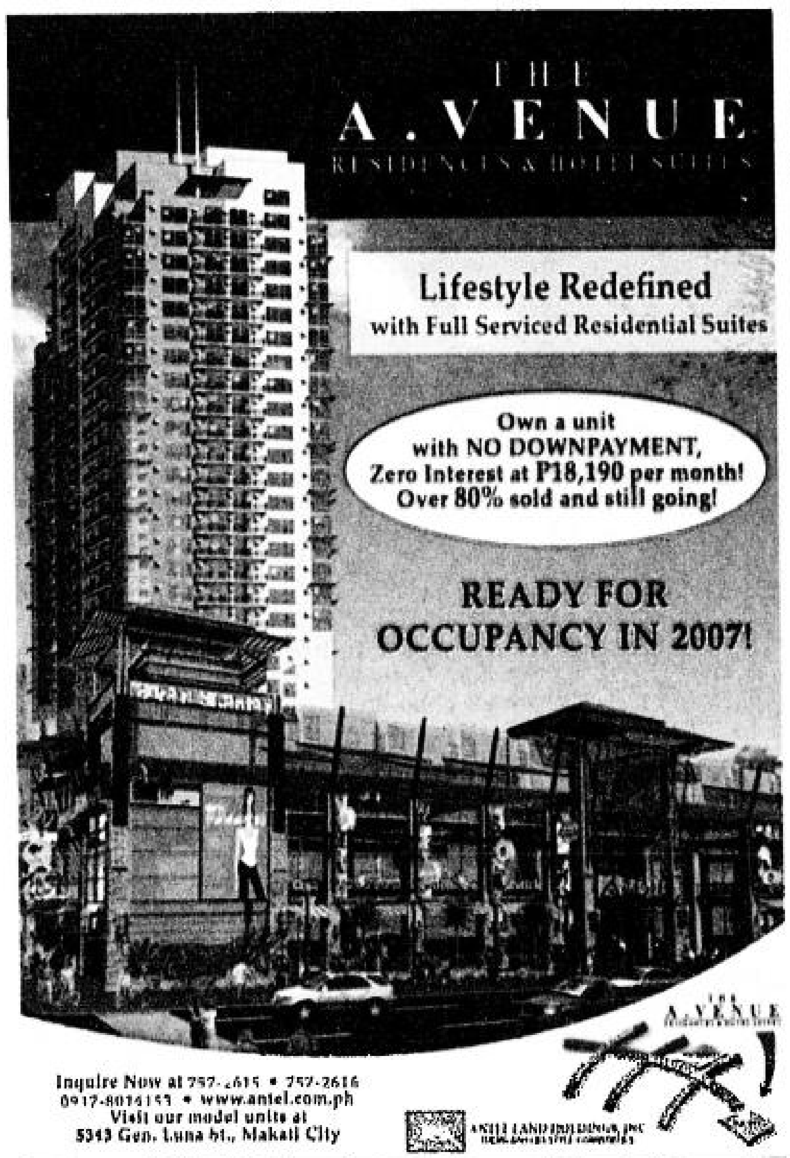
Villa-Ignacio said the prosecution panel was compiling a list of witnesses who were subpoenaed by the defense but whose testimonies were dispensed with after defense lawyers "belatedly learned that the testimonies of these witnesses have no bearing on Estrada's plunder case."

He said that since the defense panel has apparently exhausted all possible witnesses, it should now put Estrada on the witness stand.

"They have been going on like this for months now. They have presented everybody, from book authors, journalists, doctors and policemen except Estrada," said Villa-Ignacio.

Yesterday, Estrada's lawyers decided to dispense with the testimonies of journalist Genalyn Kabiling, justice undersecretary Ernesto Pineda and Police Chief Supt. Edgardo Doromal, who were all already in court, saying their testimonies were "not necessary."

Defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano warned Villa-Ignacio against making sweeping statements that he said would portray the Sandiganbayan justices in a bad light.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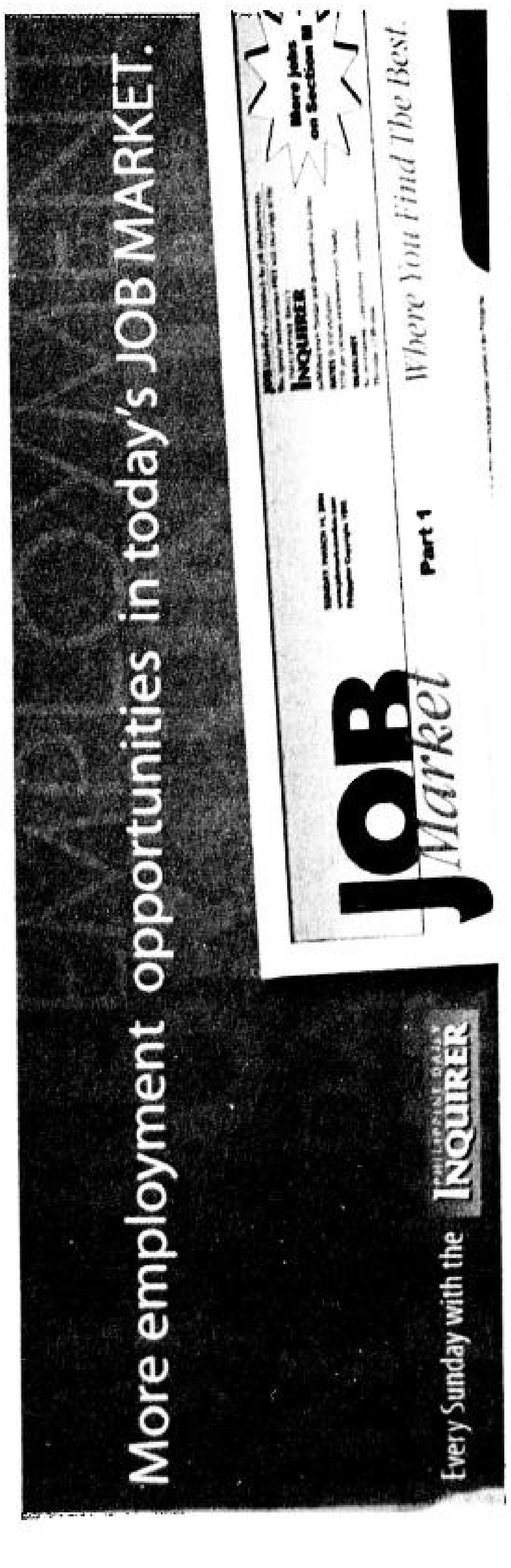
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‘Arrovo’ notes worth a fortune later – FVR

DON'T BELITTLE THOSE "PRESIDENT Arrovo" bills. They could be worth a fortune in the future, according to former President Ramos.

Ramos, who arrived from China on Tuesday night, was obviously amused by the mistake made with the P100 bank note that misspelled President Macapagal-Arroyo's surname as "Arrovo."

"My advice is, go after those mistakenly printed peso notes. I'm going to go and get one because they would be of great value in a very short while," Ramos said at a press conference on his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"Do you know where I can get them?" said the laughing Ramos, who is a collector of gold coins and books.

The former President said he also collected stamps when he was young but he decided to give away his stamp collection when he went to college because it was quite a tedious hobby.

Ramos said that one of the most valuable Philippine stamps was one that was also a mistake.

He recalled that a stamp issued by the 1935 Commonwealth government identified a waterfall as the Pagsanjan Falls when it was in fact a waterfall in the United States.

That particular stamp cost 18 centavos but Ramos said he was certain it was now worth much more than that.

"That's what you call an error in stamp collection or philately. It's in the stamp catalogue," he said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has apologized for the mistake in the printing of the P100 bank note that had misspelled the President's last name. It immediately withheld issuance of the bank note.

The BSP said the printing of the bank note had been out-sourced to a foreign supplier to ensure a sufficient supply of P100 bills during the Christmas season.

Nikko Dizon

AN EARLY CHRISTMAS FOR THE POOR

The Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) proposes to President Arroyo and her Economic Managers, to grant the following as early Christmas gifts to the Filipino consumers:

1. A P 35.00 subsidy on 11-kg LPG tanks
2. Extend the electricity rate subsidy to households consuming up to 200-kwh, instead of the present 100-kwh.
3. Exempt minimum wage earners from paying income tax.
4. Decide on the increase on minimum wage rate by mid-February.
5. Companies to provide shuttle bus or grant transportation allowance to factory workers.

1. Why give a P 35.00 subsidy on 11-kg LPG tanks?
   - 11-kg LPG tanks used by low-income households as cooking gas were never subject to an excise tax, unlike diesel (whose price has dropped because of the removal of the specific tax of P 1.63).

     Therefore, 11-kg LPG should be exempted from the 10% VAT and be given a P 35 subsidy.
   - To simplify the implementation, 11-kg tanks would bear the DTI-DOE Seal which will be sold at a special subsidized price in 20 LPG refilling stations in Metro Manila, that account for the bulk of the LPG sales nationwide.
   - Putting a DTI-DOE seal achieves three objectives:
     1) It checks against abuses
     2) It guarantees the weight and quality of the LPG, where cylinders without seal automatically becomes suspect and should not be bought by consumers.
     3) DTI-DOE will know on a daily basis how much subsidy is being given.
   - COPW can work closely with the DTI, DOE, DOF, and the LPG Dealers Association for the smooth implementation of the P 35 per 11-kg LPG.
2. Why extend the electricity rate subsidy to households consuming up to 200-kwh?
   - Only 38.4% of households enjoy an electricity rate subsidy since coverage is limited to households with 100-kwh consumption or those with few bulbs, one electric fan, and perhaps one small TV set in their homes. They spend about P 170 - P 580 a month on electricity.
   - Fairness and equity demand that cheap electricity be extended to households consuming up to 200-kwh per month.
3. Why exempt minimum wage earners from paying income tax?
   - As added relief, President Arroyo can issue an Executive Order exempting those earning a minimum wage of P275 or below a day from paying income tax and filing the annual ITR every April.
4. Why decide on the increase in minimum wage rate by mid-February?
   - The full impact of the new 10% VAT on inflation would not be known until mid-January.
   - Once such impact assessment is made, the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board can decide on the increase in the minimum wage rate and not across the board, which should be published in newspapers with general circulation.
   - Companies suffering losses must immediately file for exemption from paying any new minimum wage increases.
5. Why government won't be hurt by adopting Measures 1 to 5?
   - The government is already projecting a dramatic reduction in its budget deficit from P 181.6 billion in 2004 to P 122 billion in 2006.
   - Government expects a credit upgrade, which means lower cost of borrowing and lower debt servicing. This is because of the fiscal discipline to allocate 70% of the revenues to the payment of our National Debt and 30% to (a) education, (b) school buildings and (c) social welfare.
   - The increase in income tax rate from 32% to 35% and the deferral of the VAT paid on Capital Equipment over a five year period.
   - The Income Tax Holidays that have expired or will expire in 2005 or 2006 for profitable companies like SMART, GLOBE, PLDT and Independent Power Producers will dramatically reduce our Budget Deficit in 2007 and very likely lead to a balanced budget in 2008.

COPW FAVORS 10% VAT ON BOTH OIL & ELECTRICITY

Early on, during the deliberations on the VAT Reform Law (RA 9337), the COPW rejected the 10% VAT on oil and electricity. We wanted a 3% VAT.

Now, the COPW supports the 10% VAT on oil and electricity for the following reasons:

1) WORLD CRUDE PRICES HAVE DROPPED
   - Dubai crude dropped from $ 56.60 in August to a low of $ 50.70 a barrel, a decline of 10.4%.
   - Diesel from the region (MOPS) dropped from $ 79.67 in September to $65.47, a decline of $ 14.20 or 18%.
   - BRENT sweet crude used in the U.S. dropped from a peak of $ 74.87 at the height of Hurricane Katrina to $ 53.62 or a drop of 28.4%

2) DIESEL PUMP PRICES BEFORE EVAT WAS HIGHER THAN AFTER VAT
   - The pump price of diesel before EVAT was P 32.95. AFTER VAT, diesel is lower by P 1.35 per liter since Congress removed the excise tax of P 1.63 and the tariff was lowered to 57 centavos per liter.

3) OFW REMITTANCES AND INVESTORS' CONFIDENCE HAVE STRENGTHENED THE PESO
   - The peso has strengthened primarily because of the OFW remittances this year of $ 10.3 billion to their families during the holidays, improved confidence of international financial institutions, and the determination of Congress and Malanañang to impose the 10% VAT on oil products.

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Gov't forms panel to probe mine spills

THE GOVERNMENT HAS FORMED AN INDEPENDENT team of experts to investigate the operations of the P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu polymetallic mine project in Albay following the occurrence of two mining waste spills that have sparked calls for the mine's closure.

Composed of engineers and academics, the team will be conducting its own inquiry into the cause of the mine spills and check on the mining operations of Lafayette Phil. Inc., an Australian-based company engaged in the mining of copper, zinc, gold and silver in Rapu-Rapu off the Pacific coast of Albay province.

Church and civic leaders in Albay have called for the closure of Lafayette's Rapu-Rapu mine after only four months of operations, following claims by environmental groups that wastes from the mine's tailings pond had leaked cyanide into the island's creeks, rivers and and seas resulting in the death of fishes.

The independent audit team, as the Mines and Geosciences Bureau calls it, should be able to settle questions about the "credibility" of reports that have been coming out on the mine spills, said Reynulfo Juan, the MGB regional director for Bicol.

"It will be an operations audit, a systems review," Juan said in a phone interview.

"There will be an evaluation of their (Lafayette's) remedial measures that have been implemented and that will be implemented. The team will also review the documents on file," he said.

Probing Lafayette

The investigating team is composed of Dr. Carlos Primo David of the UP National Institute for Geological Sciences, engineers Jojo Bacani of the Chamber of Mines' committee on environment, Mars Bolaño of Benguet Corp., and Jake Foronda of the Professional Regulations Commission's board of examiners for metallurgical engineering.

Juan, who will meet with the team today, said the investigation would look into all aspects of Lafayette's operations, from extraction to milling to disposal of mine tailings.

Environmental groups have claimed that following their own fact-finding missions to the island, it was found that the Oct. 31 mine spill was no accident. They said that Lafayette had deliberately channeled the mine's waste water to a creek that flows out to the Pacific Ocean.

According to a report by the Environmental Management Bureau which investigated the claims, Lafayette had made an opening in the upper tailings dam to allow the waste water to flow into the lower tailings pond as the dam could no longer hold the waste water.

The EMB report said, however, that the overflow to the creek, which caused the "fish kills," was not intentional.

The water was meant to be contained in the "settlings ponds" where it would have been treated but the ponds overflowed because of heavy rains, it said.

Juan said the findings of the independent audit team would be made public and taken into account when the government decides the fate of Lafayette's operations, which have been stopped indefinitely. *Blanche S. Rivera*

New PMAP officers

LAWYER EMERICO O. DE GUZMAN WAS elected president of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines in elections held yesterday.

Also elected were Imelda H. Centeno (Unilab), vice president; Bernadette M. Cunanan (Manila Bulletin), secretary; and Deborah Carina E. Centeno (Protemps Inc.), treasurer.

The six elected to the board of directors are Fe Corazon B. Ramos- Muit (St. Luke's Medical Center), Ruben A. Sapitula (Manila Electric Company), Jamea S. Garcia (Punongbayan & Araullo), Bonifacio C. Afortunado (HR Team Asia, Inc.) who will serve for two years. Teresita E. de la Cruz and Jessie Francis N. Rebustillo (PDI) will serve for one year.

PMAP is celebrating its 50th anniversary next year. It is the premiere association of the country's top human resource management practitioners. This year's elections were supervised by former PMAP president Pilar Almira, assisted by Rafael Perfecto and Maribel Umali.

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a front-page story—"6th restoration for 74-year-old Met"—misspelled the first name of the lead architect in the 1978 restoration of the Metropolitan Theater. The correct spelling of the architect's name is Otilio—not Otillo—Arellano. The same error appeared in the front-page story—"Grand Dame ready for another facelift"—in the Nov. 22 issue.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

House bent on Con-Ass

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WAS SET to vote last night on a resolution calling for a joint meeting of both houses of Congress to propose changes to the 1987 Constitution, the chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments said yesterday.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula said he expected the House to pass the resolution even if at least 18 congressmen had signified their intention to interpellate him as plenary debates on the measure went on for a third day.

"We expect that we will vote on that resolution. While there are 18 members lined up to interpellate, I expect less than half of that to do so since by that time, many questions would already be repetitious," Jaraula said.

He said he expected the resolution to be sent to the Senate next week so that the senators could join congressmen in proposing changes to the Constitution, particularly amendments calling for a shift to federal parliamentary system of government.

Despite strong opposition from senators to convert the two houses of Congress into a constituent assembly, Jaraula said some senators had already assured him that the resolution would get a "very friendly" reception in the Senate.

"The latest news from our friends in the Senate is they will treat this on a very friendly level knowing that, by Dec. 15, the Consultative Commission (Concom) would already come out with its report," Jaraula said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo created the Concom to study amendments to the Charter.

"It will not be advisable on the part of senators to ignore this because they will be isolated, possibly making them(selves) irrelevant if they continue (with their opposition)," Jaraula said.

"I know many of them, in private, are in favor (of Charter Change)," he added.

He denied accusations that the House leadership was railroading the approval of the resolution.

Still grounded

TWO US AIR FORCE F-16 FIGHTER JETS REmained in a private hangar at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) yesterday while waiting for the arrival of USAF mechanics called to fix a hydraulics problem in one of the planes that forced both aircraft to make an emergency landing here last Tuesday.

Octavio "Bing" Lina, Jr., assistant general manager for operations of the Manila International Airport Authority, said in a phone interview that the jets might remain at the Naia for a few more days. He surmised that the mechanics would be coming from the Misawa Air Base in Japan, where the US fighter jets and their pilots are based.

One of the planes encountered problems in its hydraulics system while en route to Japan from Singapore and its pilot, Capt. Justin Dupuis, immediately requested permission for both aircraft to land at the Naia. *Nikko Dizon*

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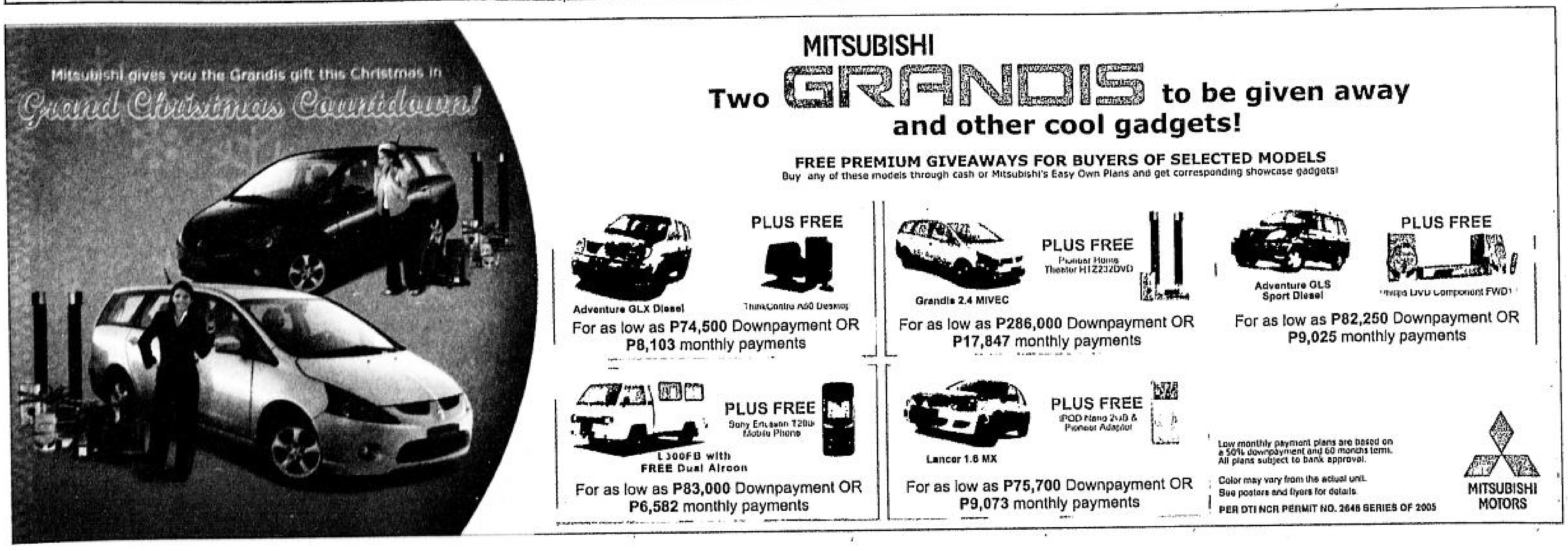

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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

'Garci' return alarms businessmen

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

NEWS OF FORMER ELECTION Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano's return to the Philippines yesterday sent jitters among businessmen and money managers.

But their mood remained generally upbeat. They expected the economy and financial markets would ride any political storm as long as the government moves forward with its fiscal reforms.

Former Philippine Stock Exchange chair Wilson Sy said: "We have to watch out what he or his wife will say. The last time the market was about to take off, it was derailed by the 'Hello Garci' tapes. The rally was postponed by five months."

Still bullish

Sy noted that the market's nervousness was only for the short term as investors remained bullish for the long term as long as the government stayed on track of its fiscal reforms, specifically, its commitment to increase the value-added tax rate from 10 percent to 12 percent by next February.

A top executive of one of the leading foreign brokerage firms considered the Garcillano issue a "mere short-term bump" and a reason to take profits from the past few days' heady gains. (The Phisix fell a little over one percent 27.18 points to close at 2,103.75).

He said the only concern for investors was whether Garcillano would turn his back on the President and throw his hat with the opposition.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said that if ever Garcillano would spawn a new wave of political turmoil "it will have little damage on the economy and investor confidence."

No match to OFW money

"This episode will hardly affect the peso, the Phisix, treasury bills or economic growth. Garci is no match to OFW remittances," said Salceda, an Arroyo economic adviser. He referred to the robust jump in dollar inflows from overseas Filipino workers that have single-handedly kept the economy humming despite the oil price spike.

The peso continued to sizzle yesterday as it remained Asia's best performing currency driven by steady OFW remittances and expectations of a credit rating upgrade in view of the country's improving fiscal picture. *(Story in Business section.)*

Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce, said that while there might be a knee-jerk, adverse reaction to the latest episode in the Garcillano saga, the economy and the markets would continue to remain stable because of vastly improved fundamentals from five months ago.

Donald Dee, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce Inc., said that while Garcillano's return would "surely have an effect," he welcomed this development because it could finally put an end to the political crisis.

IMF upgrade

"I hope it can be resolved quickly and provide a closure on this episode," Dee said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ignored worries of another wave of political turmoil as she touted the International Monetary Fund's m ove to upgrade the Philippines' growth projection to 5 percent this year from its original forecast of 4.75 percent.

"The IMF forecast foretells a story of confidence ... But this is only part of the valiant story of a vibrant Philippines. Our economic plan and its tough, honest-to-goodness implementation, overturned the political turmoil and opened the gates for surging confidence," Ms Arroyo said.

Garci out next week, says Pichay who wants him under his custody

From page A1

man at the center of the political storm buffeting President Macapagal-Arroyo was also considering the possibility of being placed under the congressman's custody.

"Soon, he will be surfacing. There are indications that he will come out and clear his name. If by chance he will call me, I will ask the House leadership if he can be put under my custody so that the arrest warrant will have no effect on him," said Pichay.

Arrest

Asked whether Garcillano's return was stage-managed by Malacañang as claimed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Pichay said: "If the opposition has nothing to hide, then they should not be worried of what they're saying now."

Speaker Jose de Venecia issued the arrest warrant on Aug. 3 to force Garcillano to attend a joint inquiry, after he snubbed two subpoenas earlier issued by five House committees.

Agusan del Sur Rep. Rodolfo "Ompong "Plaza told the House Tuesday that Garcillano returned as early as two weeks ago and was sighted in Mindanao.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula yesterday confirmed that Garcillano was spotted in his district but did not elaborate. He claimed that Garcillano was writing a book on his saga as an election official. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Garcillano vanished from public sight in June following the release of wiretapped conversations purportedly between him and Ms Arroyo at the height of canvassing of votes last year.

Ms Arroyo apologized for talking with an election official but brushed aside opposition allegations she rigged last year's presidential election. In September, the 58-year-old President escaped an impeachment attempt in the House.

The Singapore foreign ministry said Garcillano flew to Singapore on July 14 from Manila, but that it did not know where he proceeded from there. He was variously reported to have gone to the United Kingdom, the United States, Brazil and Argentina.

In an exclusive interview in early August, Garcillano admitted to have talked with Ms Arroyo several times last year but denied any wrongdoing.

"I'm not stupid," said Garcillano, stressing it would be foolhardy to rig balloting. "I did not do anything that destroyed the electoral process in this country."

He later issued an affidavit which showed that he had also talked with several politicians from the opposition, including Sen. Loren Legarda and House Minority Leader Francis Escudero.

Palace trumpets return

After months of indifference to his whereabouts, Malacañang yesterday trumpeted the reported return of Garcillano.

"We look forward to seeing him face the proper investigating authorities in the soonest possible time," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

"He holds the key to finally putting to rest the issue of electoral fraud hurled against the President, which we hope will be done soon."

Presidential political adviser Gabriel Claudio echoed Bunye's line. "The reappearance of Garcillano should be able to put a closure to the issues raised regarding the elections," he said.

Claudio rejected opposition claims that Garcillano was ready to face investigators with the help of a Malacañang script.

"We have no idea what he will say. We have no intention whatsoever to influence what he's going to say, to influence his testimony or even to get in touch with him," he said.

"I think we have to maintain a discreet distance between the Executive branch, between Malacañang and Commissioner Garcillano or any activity that will be related to his testifying before the appropriate bodies whether in Congress or in any other forum," Claudio said.

He will attend probes

Claudio said the announcement by the wife of Garcillano that her husband was in the country indicated that he would make himself available in congressional inquiries.

Claudio also rejected the proposal of some lawmakers in Congress to arrest Garcillano.

He said Garcillano should be allowed to "come forward and to give his testimony, to appear before the proper legislative and judicial bodies without any coercion or intimidation from any quarters or from any sectors."

Pichay clarified that Garcillano was not a "fugitive from justice" because he had not been formally accused of any crime in court or any administrative proceeding.

The House warrant was issued to compel a "resource person" to appear before committee hearings, according to the lawmaker.

"Garcillano is a victim here. The playing of the tape violated the Anti-Wiretapping Law," Pichay said, stressing that the audio tapes, in compact disc format, had been played in open hearing when Congress was in recess.

"We're not immune from suit at the time. He can always hit us back, charge us for violating the Anti-Wiretapping Law," said Pichay.

Pichay also denied rumors that he owned the private plane Citation believed to have been used to fly Garcillano from Puerto Princesa in Palawan to Cagayan de Oro City.

Pichay planes

INQUIRER informants said Garcillano took a *kumpit* (Moro fast boat) from Kota Kinabalu in Sabah, Malaysia, to Puerto Princesa, then took a place to Cagayan de Oro before traveling to Marawi by land and finally to Bukidnon.

Pichay said he owned a twin-engine Baron 55E, which was undergoing repair, and a single-engine Cherokee B180, which was kept in Davao City for short-distance travel in Mindanao.

Currently, he's using a third plane, a 1972-model Cessna 421B, he borrowed from a Swiss friend Daniel Vogel.

A check with aviation experts showed that all three aircraft cannot fly out to Singapore.

Pichay also pointed out that the Cessna, which could fly to Kota Kinabalu, or Hong Kong, did not recently travel to any of the two neighboring destinations.

Garci not an AFP priority

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said Garcillano's arrest was not a military priority. He said the AFP was helping other agencies but acknowledged that "we don't know his whereabouts."

Police officials were also unsure whether they could arrest Garcillano because he had not been charged with any crime in court.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao said late Tuesday that he had not received any report pinpointing where the elusive Garcillano was.

Told by reporters that Lacson had said Garcillano was shuttling between his farms in Bukidnon and Marawi City, Lomibao said: "There has been no report just yet."

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, police spokesperson, also said the PNP had not received a subpoena or arrest warrant for Garcillano.

The INQUIRER visited Garcillano's residence at RER Drive Subdivision in Cagayan de Oro City and the family farm in Barangay Salimbalan in Baungon town, Bukidnon, but he was reportedly not there.

The farm caretaker said he last saw the Garcillano couple "many months ago."

Melissa Erfe, Garcillano's next-door neighbor at RER Subdivision, said she had not heard of the Garcillanos since June.

In Sultan Kudarat, Gov. Pax Mangudadatu and his son, Rep. Suharto Mangudadatu, denied reports they were keeping Garcillano in their province.

"There is no truth to such report," the elder Mangudadatu told reporters.

Another INQUIRER informant said Garcillano was seen in the capitol building in Cotabato City last week. But Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema said he has no information on this.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol also denied the sightings of Garcillano, saying these were only rumors. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Luigi A. del Puerto and TJ Burgonio in Manila and Grace C. Albasin, JB Deveza, Julie S. Alipala and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Remulla removed as committee chair

THE LEAD CHAIR OF THE House joint committees investigating the wiretapping controversy was removed from his post Wednesday night.

Despite Makati Rep. Agapito Aquino's objection, the majority bloc in the House of Representatives succeeded in removing Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla as head of the House committee on public information Wednesday night.

House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles named North Cotabato Rep. Emmylou Talino-Santos as the new committee head.

NBI chief in 'deep coma' as of press time

From page A1

"He was in a jolly mood," said Ricardo Diaz, chief of the bureau's Interpol Division, quoting those who attended the meeting.

"When he stood up to present token gifts to his visitors, he suddenly collapsed," Diaz said.

Wycoco, 59, suffered a severe stroke caused by a ruptured blood vessel in the brain and slipped into a "deep coma," his doctors said last night.

"Prognosis is bad, but we are hopeful," Dr. Dante Morales, medical director and cardiologist of the Manila Doctors Hospital, said in the press conference.

Morales explained that the blood vessel leading to the patient's brain was blocked, causing it to burst.

He said Wycoco's aneurysm was congenital. "He had it since he was born. Bleeding is extensive and the parts of his brain for breathing and circulation were the most affected," he added.

Next 24 hours critical

The next 24 hours will be critical, Morales said. The period will determine if Wycoco would be able to regain consciousness, breathe normally and recover normal functions, such as speech, comprehension and locomotor skills, he said.

Wycoco was rushed to the hospital after he collapsed at around 10:50 a.m. yesterday. He had no heart beat and his blood pressure dropped, the doctors said.

"We had to revive him," said neurosurgeon Dr. Gerardo Legaspi. "A four-minute period was very crucial because there was no oxygen flowing through his brain. Longer than that would have irreversible damage to the brain."

Wycoco was brought in an ambulance to the emergency room of the hospital on United Nations Avenue, which is near the NBI compound on Taft Avenue. About an hour later, he was moved to the intensive care unit.

As of 6:30 p.m., doctors had yet to issue a medical bulletin on the condition of the NBI director. Wycoco's family, relatives, friends and NBI officials and employees streamed into the hospital, but journalists were barred from entering the premises.

Wycoco had just ended a case conference at his office at around 10:30 a.m. when he suddenly collapsed, according to Diaz. Present during the meeting were Court of Appeals Associate Justice Estela Perlas-Bernabe; Elfren Meneses Jr., head of the NBI Anti-Fraud and Computer Crime Division; and the NBI chief's younger brother, P/Supt. Edgardo Wycoco.

Loud thud

Wycoco's secretary, Clarissa Gonzales, said she heard a loud thud and saw Meneses rushing out of the room, instructing her to immediately call the bureau's doctors. Shortly after the doctors examined him, an ambulance came to bring Wycoco to the hospital.

Morales also said the patient had a medical history of fluctuating high blood pressure.

Medication

"But this was being kept in check because of medication," he added. "Right now, he has a stable blood pressure (120/80) and his heart is beating fast, but we have to make it slower through medication."

The doctors said they did not intend to operate on Wycoco. "No amount of operation will make his condition better, only medication will help," they said.

Diaz said he did not know of any health condition of Wycoco that could explain his sudden illness.

Healthy, athletic

"He is very healthy, athletic. He regularly plays golf and he, in fact, has a very positive outlook. We were really taken aback by what happened to him," the official said.

"Maybe it was fatigue," said Deputy Director Nestor Mantaring. But he added that Wycoco's activities during the past few days were simply part of his daily routine.

On Monday, Wycoco attended the Senate budget hearing. He was busy keeping appointments outside his office the following day.

Barong-clad NBI personnel have maintained tight security outside the hospital's ICU.

Church to hold prayer meet for GMA, foes

From page A1

Ramos and De Venecia were believed to have helped save the Arroyo presidency as pressure for her resignation mounted in July.

But the atmosphere would be neither confrontational nor political when Ms Arroyo meets both her allies and foes, vowed organizers from the Philippine National Prayer Breakfast Foundation headed by former Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

The event will instead seek "to touch the hearts and minds of our national leaders for God and for the good of all the people of the country," said former Rep. Jose Tan Ramirez, the group's executive director.

"It will be nonpolitical, nonpartisan," Regina Ordoñez, the group's secretary, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Transforming the nation

Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, president-elect of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), will deliver the keynote speech on the theme "Transforming the Nation Through Servant Leadership."

Lagdameo earlier sought closure to the "Hello Garci" controversy, which remained unresolved with the failed impeachment of Ms Arroyo.

Organizers expect around 1,000 national leaders from the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, including the police and the military, to turn up in the prayer breakfast.

Hyatt 10, too

All members of Congress had been invited. So were members of the "Hyatt 10," the Cabinet officials who quit and sought the President's resignation more than three months ago.

Also likely to show up are evangelist Bro. Mike Velarde, leader of the Catholic lay movement El Shaddai, and Bro. Eddie Villanueva, an Arroyo critic who heads the Jesus Is Lord Movement.

Velarde, along with his counterpart from the pro-Arroyo Iglesia Ni Cristo, earlier appealed to national leaders to end their political bickering and asked them to focus on the plight of the poor.

It was similar to the advice given. by the CBCP in their pastoral letter drafted during its plenary assembly last July.

During the breakfast, Ordoñez said biblical passages would be read corresponding to specific themes such as reconciliation, unity, justice, peace and repentance.

"It will not be personality-based," she said. "Everybody will pray for the transformation of our nation through servant leadership."

Vatican closes doors ...

From page A1

sexual tendencies that are merely the expression of a transitory problem, for example as in the case of an unfinished adolescence, they must however have been clearly overcome for at least three years before ordination as a deacon."

The document, called an "Instruction," is only five pages long, including footnotes. It was signed by the prefect and secretary of the congregation on Nov. 4 and was approved by Pope Benedict XVI on Aug. 31.

The text, which made no reference to current priests, was directed instead to people entering seminaries and preparing for ordination. It's title reads: "Regarding the criteria of vocational discernment regarding people with homosexual tendencies in view of their admission to the seminary and to sacred orders."

Vatican prohibitions on active homosexuals becoming priests are not new.

A key 1961 Vatican document on selecting candidates for the priesthood made clear homosexuals should be barred.

'Grave sins'

The new document underlines that long-standing traditions and Church teaching consider homosexual acts "grave sins" and also intrinsically immoral and contrary to natural law. "Therefore, in no case can they be approved."

The sex abuse scandal among priests in the United States and elsewhere has led some people to call for new restrictions.

Estimates of the number of gays in US seminaries and the priesthood range from 25 percent to 50 percent, according to a review of research by the Rev. Donald Cozzens, a former seminary rector and author of "The Changing Face of the Priesthood."

Psychologist Thomas Plante—who has evaluated prospective seminarians for US dioceses and religious orders—said the document would have an "enormous" ripple effect on the future US priesthood if the norms were followed.

Fabulous even if gay

"Sexual orientation in almost all the evaluations I've done over 15 years hasn't really mattered," he said. "Now what's coming out of the Vatican is that it matters in a big way. That's a real challenge because we think that there are many many many gay men who are fabulous priests."

He questioned how seminary directors would apply the new regulations, and suggested that many may resort to a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The candidates also may try to hide their sexual orientation, said Plante, who chairs the psychology department at Santa Clara University in California.

"That puts us in a bind because, in order to do a real evaluation, you need to have some understanding of their sexual history or behavior, regardless of their orientation," he said.

The Vatican press office announced in November 2002, at the height of the clergy sex scandal in the United States, that the Congregation for Catholic Education was drawing up guidelines for accepting candidates for the priesthood that would address the question of whether gays should be barred. However, the document reportedly had been in the works well before then. *AP*

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

It's official: Merkel takes power in Germany

MERKEL

BERLIN—ANGELA MERKEL MADE history Tuesday as she was elected German chancellor, becoming the first woman to take the reins of Europe's biggest economic power and the first leader from the former communist east.

She received an overwhelming majority—397 of the 611 valid ballots—in a vote in the Bundestag lower house of parliament, making her Germany's eighth postwar leader.

The vote came two months after her Christian Democrats (CDU) narrowly won a general election against outgoing leader Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats (SPD), who served for seven years in a coalition with the Greens.

"Dear Dr. Merkel, you are the first democratically elected female head of government in Germany. That sends a strong message to many women, and surely some men as well," parliamentary speaker Norbert Lammert said to laughter.

Schroeder, 61, was the first to shake her hand.

The 51-year-old Merkel, who is also Germany's youngest postwar leader, cracked a small smile as the results were announced and appeared to fight back tears as the deputies applauded her.

"I wish you much luck, strength and God's blessing," President Horst Koehler said.

The conservative faces a daunting task, particularly as she has been forced to head up an unwieldy left-right "grand coalition" with her political rivals.

The razor's-edge election result underlined Germans' rejection of her more radical economic reform plans in favor of one leavened with the SPD's traditional leftist policies on the labor market and the welfare system.

"I am firmly convinced that we will together be successful in renewing and further developing our social welfare state so that it can also be a source of strength for our society and our economy in the future," SPD leader Matthias Platzeck said, congratulating Merkel.

Merkel has set a goal of returning Germany to the top three countries in Europe for economic growth within 10 years and slashing the 11-percent unemployment rate during her four-year term.

A self-effacing pastor's daughter who lacks the charisma and occasional flamboyance of her predecessor, Merkel has brushed off comparisons with Britain's Margaret Thatcher. *AFP*

White House dismisses Jazeera bomb plot report

WASHINGTON—THE WHITE HOUSE ON TUESDAY DISMISSED as "outlandish" a report that President George W. Bush had wanted to bomb the Arab television news network Al-Jazeera.

The Daily Mirror tabloid published what it called a "top secret" government memo which said British Prime Minister Tony Blair had talked Bush out of launching a military strike on the station.

"We are not going to dignify something so outlandish and inconceivable with a response," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said of the British report.

White House communications director Nicolle Wallace had earlier called the report "fanciful."

"We're not going to talk about private discussions that take place between the president and other leaders," Wallace said on MSNBC television.'

"But it's fanciful to think that the president of the United States of America, a champion really for free press all over the world, would ever have any serious notions to do anything of the sort."

Al-Jazeera has drawn fierce criticism from the US administration, particularly since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

The Daily Mirror published a five-page transcript of a conversation between Bush and Blair during the prime minister's April 2004 visit to Washington which indicated Bush wanted to attack the station's Doha headquarters.

The Mirror quoted one unnamed British government official as saying Bush's threat was "humorous, not serious." However, another source said: "Bush was deadly serious, as was Blair. That much is absolutely clear from the language used by both men."

In Alexandria, Virginia, A US man was found guilty on Tuesday of conspiring with and aiding al-Qaida and plotting to assassinate Bush.

A 12-member federal jury at the US District Court found Ahmed Abu Ali, 24, guilty of all charges in a nine-count indictment. He had been charged with conspiring to support and supporting al-Qaida, conspiracy to kill Bush and conspiracy to commit aircraft hijacking.

US District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee set a Feb. 17, 2006, date to sentence Abu Ali, who faces life in prison.

Abu Ali was arrested in June 2003 while studying at a Saudi university. He signed confessions and made statements admitting to the plot against Bush and to having ties to an al-Qaida cell.

He was held in Saudi Arabia for 20 months before being sent back to the United States earlier this year to face trial.

In the statements, Abu Ali said he and senior members of an al-Qaida cell in Medina, Saudi Arabia, discussed how he could kill Bush. He said they also talked about other types of attacks, including Sept. 11-like hijackings that could be carried out in the United States.

Prosecutors said Abu Ali's goal was to become a planner of terrorist operations like Mohamed Atta—believed to be the ringleader of the Sept. 11 hijackers. *AFP, Reuters*

RARE DIANA PHOTOS
Celebrity photographer Mario Testino poses in front of a photograph of the late British Princess Diana at the Kensington Palace in London. AFP

Poll boost for Sharon after quitting party

JERUSALEM—POLLS ON TUESDAY predicted Ariel Sharon's reelection as Israeli premier, vindicating his gamble to create a new liberal party in a move that has raised hope of a breakthrough in the peace process.

As President Moshe Katsav gave the green light for a March election, Sharon's former colleagues vied for the leadership of the right-wing Likud party, flung into crisis by the seismic shift in Israeli politics.

A series of surveys taken after Sharon unveiled his new party showed that the Likud faction he created more than 30 years ago faces electoral meltdown.

The new Sharon-led Kadima (Forward) party would win between 30 and 33 seats in the 120-strong parliament, the polls showed, and Likud between 12 and 15 seats — a dramatic drop from its current 40 in the Knesset.

The surveys also predicted that the left-of-center Labour would secure 26 seats. Such a result would mark something of a recovery for the party, which earlier this month elected trade union chief Amir Peretz as leader and secured only 18 seats at the last election in 2003.

"All the parties that I have consulted are in favor of early elections which should now take place," Katsav told journalists, adding that he hoped to set a date in the next few days after contacts with Knesset leaders. *AFP*

Tummy bugs can become photographic films

PARIS—BIOLOGISTS SAY they have created a "living photographic film," made out of engineered intestinal bacteria, that is capable of taking high-resolution black-and-white pictures.

In a study published on Thursday in Nature, the weekly British science weekly, a team led by Christopher Voigt at the University of California at San Francisco started by extracting a light-sensing gene from a germ called a cyanobacterium.

They then stitched the gene into the cell membranes of *Escherichia coli* bacteria, so that exposure to red light switched off a gene called lacZ that controls production of the bug's black pigment.

As a result, black-and-white images can be "stenciled" onto a mat of the engineered bacteria grown on a plate of protein-rich lab gel.

And because the screen's definition is on bacterial scale—at up to 100 million pixels per 2.5 sq. cm.—the resolution and tone scale are extraordinarily good.

The authors say their invention could spur "bacterial microlithography" and the creation of new materials made from living organisms.

But it could also help unlock fundamental knowledge about how bacteria use gene switches to send signals to each other. *AFP*

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Ukraine marks 'orange revolution'

KIEV—SNOW FLOATED DOWN ON A SEA of orange flags and orange-clad crowds in Kiev's Independence Square on Tuesday, prompting memories of events a year ago, as Ukraine celebrated the first anniversary of the "orange revolution."

By evening, tens of thousands of people filled the square that was the epicenter of last year's protests, where President Viktor Yushchenko was due to address the nation in a televised speech later in the night.

Many had come from outside Kiev, to return to the square where they camped last year during the 17 days of massive demonstrations that led to the fall of an entrenched pro-Russian regime in favor of a pro-Western reformer.

"I came to support the president," said Dmytro Ryhailo, a 45-year-old teacher from the western city of Ternopil who took an overnight train into the capital with 15 friends and taped the scene on a hand-held video recorder.

When asked whether, as many revolution supporters, he was disappointed with Yushchenko because of the slow pace of reforms and a number of scandals that have hit the administration, Ryhailo said: "Not even a little bit."

"A year is too short a period of time" fundamentally to change things, he said.

Supporters began pouring into central Kiev early in the morning. Some brought orange paraphernalia they had saved from last year's protests, while others snapped up orange flags and bandanas handed out by Yushchenko's Our Ukraine party from tents throughout the square.

In a bid to recreate the atmosphere of last year's protests, when hundreds of Yushchenko backers occupied the streets to support his claims that the former regime had rigged a presidential election, organizers set up a handful of tents in the square and handed out hot tea and coffee.

"This is a holiday for me," said Nina Kushnina, a 56-year-old from the northern city of Sumy, who attended last year's protests with her daughter.

"I am living as I was a year ago, but it's up to me to improve my life," she said. "Yushchenko is a good person. I hope God brings him good health so he continues to work."

Just as last year, when Ukraine's leading musicians entertained the crowds during the protests, performers were due to sing from a stage set up in the middle of the square late afternoon on Tuesday.

While waiting for the acts, some groups of people danced to tunes from portable radios, while others performed Ukrainian folk songs.

Alexander Safonov, a 42-year-old sailor and Kiev native, couldn't attend last year's protests because he was away in Russia working. *AFP*

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Suicide bomber kills 21 in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A suicide bomber struck a busy commercial street in Kirkuk, leaving 21 dead, another 24 people were wounded, after insurgents lured police to the scene by shooting an officer, officials said. Half the dead were police who rushed to the scene after gunmen killed a fellow officer, according to police Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qader. The blast was just the latest of many in Kirkuk, a mixed Arab, Kurdish and Turkoman city in an oil-producing region 290 km north of Baghdad. More than 160 Iraqis, most of them Shiites, have died in a wave of spectacular suicide operations across Iraq. Elsewhere, insurgents fired a mortar shell at a US ceremony transferring one of Saddam Hussein's palaces in Tikrit to Iraqi control. The shell failed to explode but sent the US ambassador, the top American commander and robed tribal sheiks scurrying for cover as the round whistled overhead. *AP*

Bird flu kills 250 swans in Russia

MOSCOW—Around 250 wild swans have died from an H5-type bird flu on the Volga River delta in southern Russia, Russian news agencies reported Tuesday. "Analysis showed that the swans died from the H5 bird flu infection," the emergency situations ministry was quoted as saying by the official RIA Novosti agency. Russia's deputy veterinary chief, Yevgeny Nepoklonov, told state-run Itar-Tass that roughly 250 swans had died and that a quarantine was being enforced around the area near the city of Astrakhan. Officials did not say whether it was suspected the flu could by the H5N1 variety, a deadly strain of which has killed more than 60 people in Asia in the past two years. H5N1 has so far been detected in birds in eight Russian provinces. *AFP*

US restores Indonesia military ties

WASHINGTON—The United States restored military ties on Tuesday with Indonesia as a reward for the most-populous Muslim nation's counterterrorism cooperation and improved human rights record, State Department officials said. "Indonesia is a voice of moderation in the Islamic world," State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack said in a statement explaining the decision. "Indonesia has made significant progress in advancing its democratic institutions and practices in a relatively short time." The move comes despite objections from human rights groups that say Indonesia has done too little to punish offenders for violence in East Timor in 1999. But US diplomats defended the decision, which concludes a series of steps this year toward closer military ties with the vast archipelago. *Reuters*

US forces wrap up offensive near Syria

BAGHDAD—US and Iraqi forces wrapped up Tuesday a major 17-day offensive against suspected al-Qaida operatives near the Syrian border, with 139 rebels killed and 256 captured, the US military said. Ten US Marines were also killed in fighting during the operation known as Steel Curtain, adding to a growing death toll which has seen 2,100 US military personnel lose their lives since the March 2003 US-led invasion. The military said the assault was aimed at preventing al-Qaida fighters operating in the Euphrates River Valley and throughout the restive western province of Al-Anbar. "The operation made way for the establishment of a permanent Iraqi army security presence in the Al-Qaim region and set the conditions for local citizens to vote in the upcoming Dec. 15 elections," it said. *AFP*

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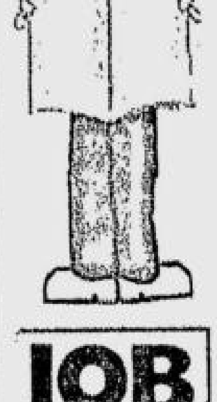

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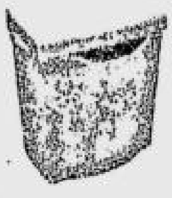

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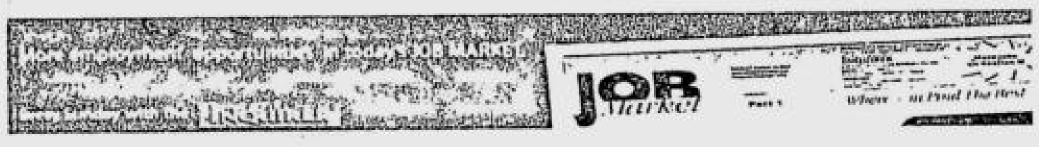

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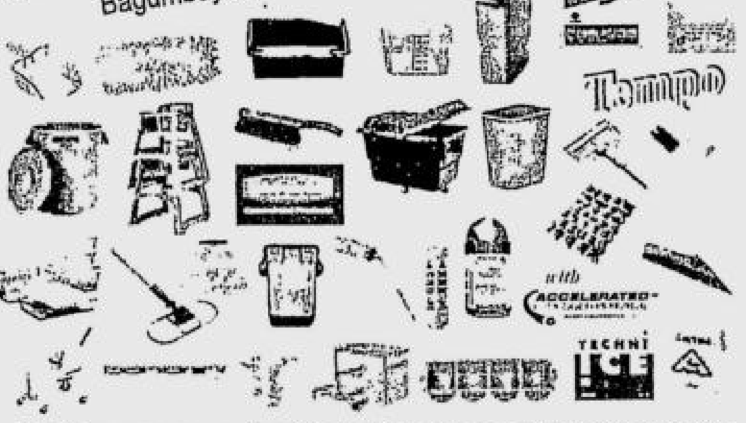

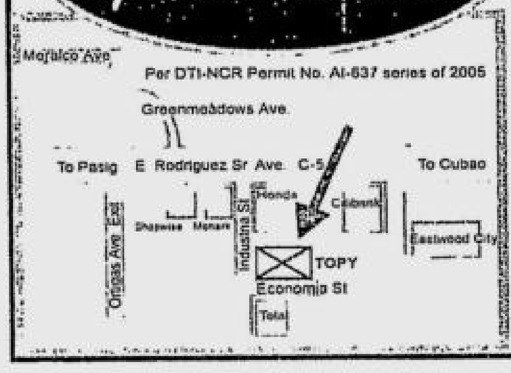

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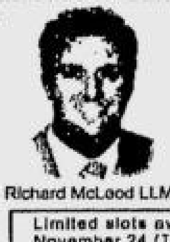

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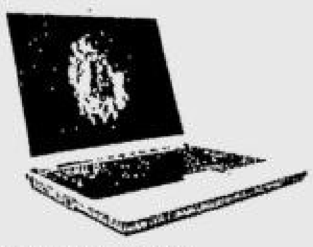

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Global money transfer giant *MoneyGram* is further expanding its operations in the Philippines, through its super agent Currency Connections Corp. (**3C**), which has just forged a service alliance with Allied Banking Corporation and Allied Savings Bank.

Under its tie-up with **3C**, Allied Banking Corporation (ABC), with 285 branches all over the country, and Allied Savings Bank (ASB), with its 18 branches in key locations in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and the island-provinces of Luzon will now begin to offer the *MoneyGram* international money transfer service.

"With our newly forged linkage with Allied Banking Corporation and Allied Savings Bank, we will further expand the access OFWs and their families already have to the safe and fast money transfer services of *MoneyGram* International, " **3C** president Danilo S. Venida said.

ABC has 137 branches in Metro Manila or 48% of all its branches; 65 branches or 23% in the other Luzon regions; 44 branches or 15% in the Visayas; and, 39 branches or 14% in Mindanao. All these 303 locations of ABC and ASB all over the country will be ready to offer *MoneyGram* this month.

MONEYGRAM – 3C Alliance Marks Yr. 1; Rolls Out Business Center ng Bayan Network

MoneyGram International, which is listed in the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), is the second biggest money transfer service globally in terms of locations and volume of business. It has over 84,000 locations, and still growing, in 170 countries. It has decided to establish its presence in the Philippines more strongly in view of the ever-growing number of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) all over the world.

3C, one of the leading *MoneyGram* super agents for the Philippines and select international locations, began its partnership with the global money transfer firm last November 2004 and has since been developing a national service network for *MoneyGram*.

Business Center ng Bayan™

Marking the first anniversary of the alliance, Currency Connection Corp. is now rolling out a multi-service *MoneyGram* – 3C kiosk in select locations in the country dubbed the **Business Center ng Bayan™**. It is a unique livelihood and business investment vehicle for Filipino micro-entrepreneurs particularly OFWs and their families.

MoneyGram International regional director for Asia Pacific Nick Cunnew welcomed the latest "service innovation" of **3C** saying that "with the **Business Center ng Bayan™** network being rolled out, we will not only make *MoneyGram* service available to more and more Filipinos but more importantly OFWs and their family members can become entrepreneurs in their own right."

Nick Cunnew
MG AsPac Reg. Dir.

Danny Venida
3C President

"This is **3C**'s way of re-inventing the sari-sari store, with **Business Center ng Bayan™** bundling services which are in big demand at the community level, supported by cutting edge communications technology," **3C** president Venida said.

Business Center ng Bayan™ gives enterprising Filipino families and aspiring entrepreneurs the chance to use some of their savings by investing in businesses they themselves will manage. Through **Business Center ng Bayan™** , 3C is employing a three-pronged approach in developing its network for *MoneyGram* and the complementing services it has bundled with the *MoneyGram* service. These highly profitable and in-demand services now bundled under the **Business Center ng Bayan™**: include *SMART PADALA Domestic™*, the **DPEX™** document and parcel speed delivery service, and the broadband Internet-connected **3C Computer Chat Corner™**.

With these service partners under the *MoneyGram* – 3C **Business Center ng Bayan™**, the facility is designed to strengthen the over-all customer access to the *Moneygram* while also bannering the select service arrangements with banks like ABC and ASB to offer *MoneyGram*. The **Business Center ng Bayan™** network will be the main vehicle for 3C to establish its own outlets and strongly promote as its principal strategy the *MoneyGram*-3C service kiosk in partnership with micro-entrepreneurs.

TIE-UP WITH ALLIED BANK

Allied Banking Corporation with its subsidiary, Allied Savings Bank, is among the largest banking groups in the country.

They are committed to be of service to OFWs not only through their branch network in the country, but also through their branches and affiliates in Asia-Pacific countries like Australia, China, Japan, Singapore; in Europe; in North America; in the Middle East.

The agreement with **3C** for the *MoneyGram* international money transfer service allows ABC and ASB to diversify the services they can offer their OFW clientele and expand their reach to our OFWs globally.

THE MoneyGram.® International Money Transfer COMMITMENT

Mission Statement

"To help people and businesses by delivering affordable, reliable and convenient financial services."

Customers

- Overseas workers and Immigrants who need to provide financial support to their families back home.
- Students who need pocket money or pay tuition fees
- Travelers who need urgent cash
- Emergencies while abroad someone becomes sick and needs cash urgently
- Business people who need more cash than anticipated on their trip

Brand Promise

- Fast - Affordable - Reliable
- Safe - Friendly

Product Benefits

- Fast - only 10 minutes (**Subject to receive agents' hours of operation and local regulations*)
- Convenient - over 84,000 locations in more than 170 countries
- Reliable
- Simple - only need to fill in a form, no bank account required
- Trust - quality agents including banks, post offices, and key supermarket chains

Emotional Benefits

With MoneyGram you know your loved ones will receive your money safely.

Extra

Complimentary 10-word message for every transaction

Business Center ng Bayan™: GIVING OFWs THEIR OWN BUSINESSES

3C and *MoneyGram*'s year-old partnership is further expanding through to 2006 with a renewed commitment to be of service to the OFWs. 3C is opening up for micro entrepreneurs, particularly from the OFW sector, its **Business Center ng Bayan™**. This is the service kiosk developed to become a vehicle for providing a package of services that will cater to the OFWs' needs and their families and beneficiaries here in the country.

A **Business Center ng Bayan™** comes fully equipped, with personal computers connected to the Internet by DSL-broadband. The beneficiaries of money transfers can chat with their senders abroad. Families and loved ones can connect. The PCs are equipped with webcam. The **Business Center ng Bayan™** also has a service-dedicated facsimile machine, printer with scanning and copying capability. It is a business center for the OFWs. Staff can provide basic secretarial work for the clientele.

3C has bundled in the **Business Center ng Bayan™** SMART PADALA (Domestic) for local money transfers and a courier service for international and domestic routes via Documents and Parcels Express, Inc. (DPEX), a Singapore-based courier group with a Philippine subsidiary. These services, price-wise and service quality-wise are highly competitive in the market.

What 3C has done is arrange a business relationship for the Filipino micro entrepreneurs and major companies operating big business --- a partnership between the small and big for the benefit of the many small customers all over the country. The **Business Center ng Bayan™** will deliver a professional, efficient service package to its customers.

For inquiries on the **Business Center ng Bayan™**, call MediaTrade Exchange Inc. at +632-373-7059 or +632-410-1735, or E-mail Mr. Resti Reyes at mediatrade.exchange @gmail.com.

OFWs TO BECOME KEY PLAYERS IN THE ECONOMY

If OFWs and their families invest in a **Business Center ng Bayan™**, they will become market players in the the Philippine economy. They will not only be paying service charges for the money transfers they make. They themselves will earn as more and more Filipinos send money from abroad and locally, through the **Business Center ng Bayan™**.

The paradigm will shift. OFWs should not only be a sector upon whom many businesses make money. They should be given the opportunity to participate in the businesses that cater to them.

Many have made and continue to make "big bucks" on them. They should be able to share in the pie fairly and squarely through their **3C Business Center ng Bayan™**.

For that opportunity, **3C** has effectively arranged for them as business "partners": *MoneyGram* International, Ltd., number two money transfer company worldwide; the giant telecommunications firm, Smart Communications, Inc.; and, a growing business, Documents and Parcels Express, Inc.

Other business partnerships with complementing services will be forged by **3C** for the micro-entrepreneurs and allow them to tap more opportunities for providing services and for income generation under the **Business Center ng Bayan™** umbrella.

Quick Facts

- The government says the deployment of OFWs, especially health-care workers, will remain strong given the high demand for the skill set among developed countries with aging populations. Filipino workers are preferred owing to their education, competence and the high quality of service they provide.
- Latest government figures show that remittances from OFWs could total some $10.3 billion by end-2005, or 20 percent higher than 2004 inflows. OFW remittances for 2004 totaled $8.55 billion.
- For the first seven months of 2005, OFW remittances amounted to $5.77 billion, or $1.04 billion more than the $4.73 billion recorded during last year's first seven months.
- Due to increased deployment of higher-paid skilled professionals and improved access to formal remittance channels, OFW remittances have registered double-digit growth since last year.
- OFW remittances, including those passing through informal channels, probably total 14-B U.S. dollars or PhP 770-B. As consumption, this can be a low of 38% to possibly 64% of the country's GNP. The OFW sector is the single most important segment in the economy today.
- A World Bank study has found that 51 percent of Filipino households with at least one member working abroad belong to the country's top 25 percent family income earners; while 28 percent belonged to the next 25 percent. In fact, the $778 average monthly income of an OFW family member is way above that of others.
- In the first half of 2005, a total of 216,893 land-based OFWs were deployed - 24,094 more than the 192,799 land-based OFWs deployed for the first half of 2004.
- An average of 2,700 land-based and sea-based OFWs leave for jobs abroad each day for this year. The POEA even expects the average to reach 3,000 a day by the year's end.

AFP open to truce with Reds

By Donna Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY IS OPEN TO A SUSpension of military operations (Somo) during the Christmas holidays, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gem. Generoso Senga said yesterday.

But he said ongoing operations against New People's Army (NPA) rebels will continue in the meantime.

"I think it's possible," Senga replied when asked if the military would recommend a Christmas ceasefire this year.

"It's acceptable to suspend military offensive operations but it's too early (to decide). It's only November. But normally it's done in deference to the Christmas season," he added.

He said a Somo also gives soldiers in the battlefield some respite during Christmas.

"But you must make it clear it's a suspension of offensive military operations. We remain in the defense stance because NPA terrorists take advantage of the situation. They not only attack our positions but also intensify their terrorist activities like extortion," he said.

Senga flatly rejected calls from some legislators to declare an early ceasefire with the communist rebels, which has stepped up its attacks on government forces.

Since Saturday, 12 soldiers have been killed and at least 30 others have been injured in two rebel ambushes in Calinog, Iloilo and in Tiaong, Quezon.

Some 700 families in Tiaong and the nearby towns of Candelaria and Dolores have been forced to flee their homes due to the fighting.

"There's no plan for a ceasefire," Senga said.

He belied the claim of Communist Party of the Philippines spokesman Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal that the latest encounters were the result of the CPP Central Committee's order to its armed wing to "intensify tactical offensives" against the Arroyo government.

"They did not start the offensive. The particular incidents in Calinog and in Tiaong took place as part of ongoing offensive operations of the Armed Forces. So it is a misperception that it is the NPA rebels who are on the offensive. Our operating troops are on the offensive," Senga insisted.

"We suffer casualties but they suffer casualties also. What is important is we are able to control the areas that they are pestering," he said, citing the Globe Telecom cell sites in Quezon province.

Since July, 20 Globe cell sites around the country have been sabotaged by communist rebels, the latest being the one in Lucban, Quezon that was destroyed last Tuesday.

In a phone interview with reporters yesterday, Rosal said they are willing to declare a holiday ceasefire, but he said this could be scuttled by ongoing military offensives in Quezon.

"If the fighting continues there might be no ceasefire," he said.

"The lawmakers should direct their appeal to the government, not to us. They (military) should be the first to declare a ceasefire," he went on.

Troops, Abu Sayyaf trade heavy gunfire

TROOPS AND ABOUT 100 SUSpected Muslim militants exchanged heavy gunfire deep in the mountains of the southwestern island of Jolo, killing one soldier and an unknown number of rebels, the army said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Aleo, commander of the military's counter-terrorism task force, said fighting broke out late on Tuesday when soldiers ran into a large group of Abu Sayyaf rebels in the mountains near Indanan town.

The clash was the first contact with the rebels since a week ago, when troops in Panamao town came under mortar barrages.

"We lost only one but our troops may have inflicted a heavy toll on the enemy side," Aleo told reporters. "Sporadic fighting continued through the night."

Aleo said five soldiers had been killed and 25 wounded since Nov. 11, when troops hunting a one-armed, horse-riding Abu Sayyaf commander clashed with a group of rebels near Indanan town.

An estimated 25 rebels had been killed, but only three bodies were found at the scene. Nearly 5,000 residents of three villages around Indanan fled their homes and farms.

The military has been searching for Radullan Sahiron, the Abu Sayyaf chief on Jolo, after police apologized for arresting a man who turned out to be a look alike missing the wrong arm.

Sahiron, with a bounty of P5 million on his head, is wanted for a series of high-profile kidnappings, including the abduction of 21 tourists and resort workers from Sipadan island in Malaysia in 2000. *Reuters*

Coco biodiesel suppliers plan to raise output

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINES' BIODIESEL PROVIDERS are all set to meet the projected demand of 70 million liters of coco biodiesel when Congress enacts a law mandating oil firms to add one percent of the biodiesel to fuel.

Chemrez Inc., one of three producers of coco biodiesel in the country, is expanding its plant in Quezon City to increase its production capacity from 60 million liters to 75 million liters of coco biodiesel a year.

"Our preference is to supply locally, but if there's no law to mandate the use of coco biodiesel, then we have to export," Chemrez operations manager Jun Ang Lao said yesterday.

He said Japan was an emerging market for coco biodiesel, along with South Korea. The company is also negotiating with the European market, where the use of alternative fuel or clean fuel is strongly backed by the government.

The European Union (EU) requires its 25 member states to use 2.75 percent of biodiesel in their fuel mixture, making the EU a sure market for producers of alternative fuel.

The President has certified as urgent pending bills in both the Senate and House of Representatives mandating the use of clean additives to diesel and gasoline.

Malacañang has also issued memorandum circular 55 requiring government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations to use one percent of coconut methyl ester in their diesel requirements.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 24, 2005
34th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	Dn 6:12-28
Gospel:	Luke 21:20-28

Jesus said to his disciples, "When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then you must know that the time has come when it will be reduced to a wasteland. Then, if you are in Judea, flee to the mountains; if you are in the city, leave it; and let those who are in the fields not return to the city.

"For these will be the days of its punishment and all that was announced in the Scripture will be fulfilled. How hard will it be for pregnant women and for mothers with babies at the breast! For a great calamity will come upon the land, and divine justice upon this people. They will be put to death by the sword or taken as slaves to other nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled upon by the pagans until the time of the pagans is fulfilled.

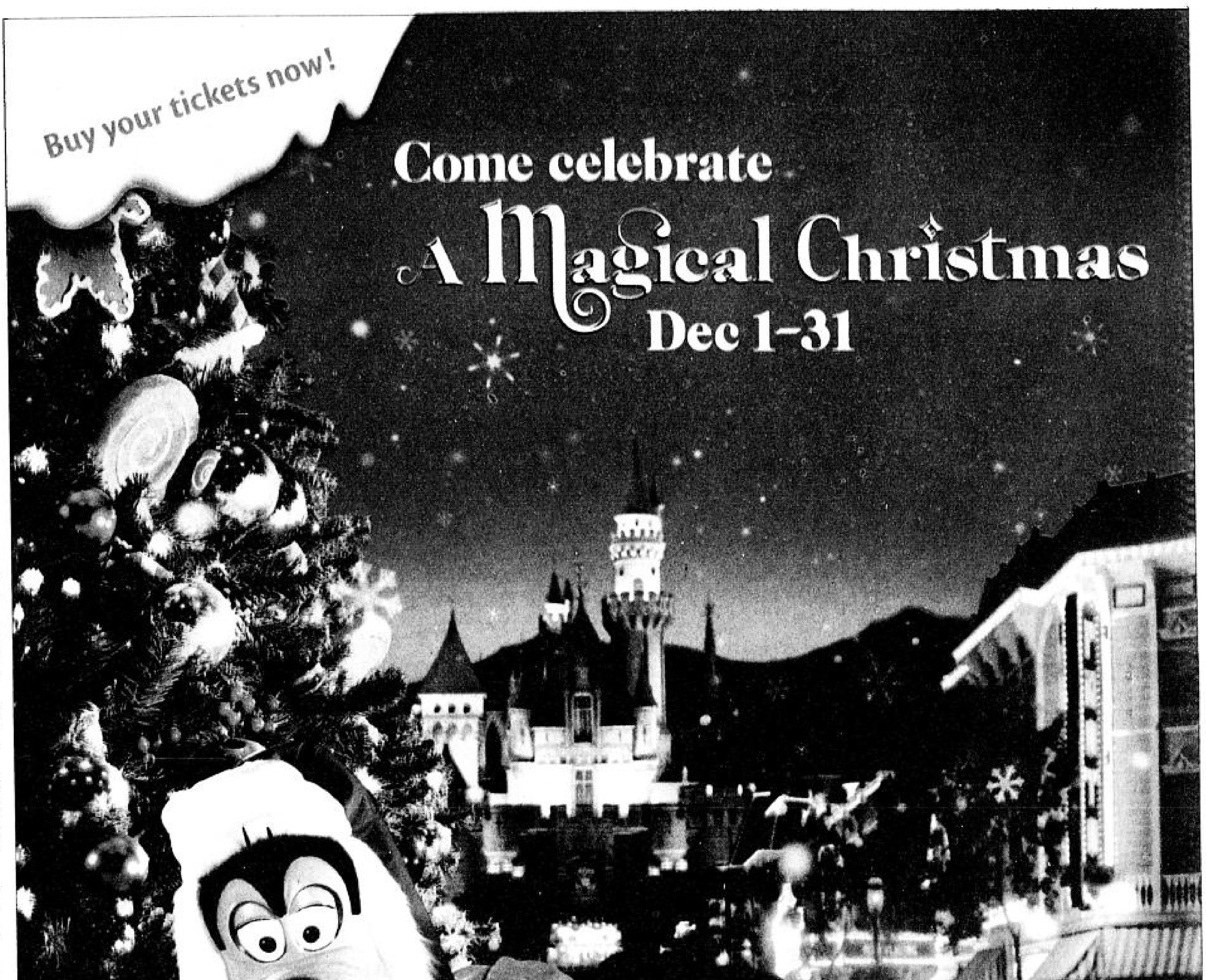
"Then there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth anguish of perplexed nations when they hear the roaring of the sea and its waves. People will faint with fear at the mere thought of what is to come upon the world, for the forces of the universe will be shaken. And at this time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

"Now, when you see the first events, stand erect and lift up your heads, for your deliverance is drawing near."

Commentary

This is the description of the destruction of Jerusalem, but it could be any landmark, any country as it falls from power, any nation brought to ruin by another nation and then made slaves to those who conquer. And it is harder for women, children and those about to give birth. And it is about the end of time, the end of all history and all world powers, at the end of the world when the Son of Man comes to judge the nations with justice. There will be justice and glory will touch the earth. This woe ends with wonder: "stand erect and lift up your heads, for your deliverance is drawing near!" The martyrs, the prophets, those who worked for justice, those who befriended the poor and were the friends of God—fullness will be given. No matter what transpires in the world today we are to stand in the freedom of the children of God, practice resurrection and know our God is near, always drawing nearer to us.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)



Come to Hong Kong Disneyland for "A Magical Christmas". Mickey and all your Disney friends in their Christmas attire, will perform the 6pm lighting ceremony of our giant Christmas tree every night. You'll love watching the lights sparkle and illuminate the night sky as beautiful white snow falls around you! And after a magical day in the Park, head to Hong Kong Disneyland Hotel or Disney's Hollywood Hotel to continue all the fun and joy with the ones you love.

During the Christmas month, there will be no surcharge on Park Ticket or hotel room. What's more, your Park Ticket allows you to enjoy every attraction, show and event in the Park for the whole day! To begin your magical Christmas journey, contact your local travel agency or book your tickets at www.hongkongdisneyland.com today.

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Readers' Advocate **Lorna Kalaw Tirol**
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph
Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342; Cell Phone No. 0917-805-7412

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Imaginary shortage?

EDITORIAL

HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE THE BRAIN drain in the Philippine health care system?

You don't, say some Arroyo administration officials, for the simple reason that there is no such problem. And if there appears to be one, it only exists in some people's imagination. Which was essentially what Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said when confronted with warnings of a developing health crisis and an impending collapse of the health care system.

"The crisis in human medical resources is now upon us," Jossel Ebesate, secretary general of the Alliance of Health Workers, told a recent summit of health-care professionals. "The delivery of health services is being compromised." Former Health Secretary Jaime Galvez Tan said the country is "facing a serious problem and we need to address it now before it is too late."

Sto. Tomas, however, dismissed such fears as baseless. She told reporters Tuesday, "Many of us say that we are suffering from a brain drain, but it's just a perception. [It's] not supported by hard data." She pointed out that the number of nursing students has been increasing every year. "We should not worry," she said. "Those who leave will be replenished by new graduates."

Stories abound of doctors going back to school to take up nursing so they can find employment in some foreign countries. A 50-year-old lung surgeon, with 25 years of practice behind him, told Agence France Presse that more than a third of the 40 graduates of their school in 1980 have emigrated, with most of them finding employment as nurses. A 35-year-old obstetrician said more than half of the 300 doctors with whom she graduated in 1998 were now working abroad, mostly as nurses.

But such stories seem to leave Sto. Tomas unconvinced that there is a problem. She most likely puts them in the category of anecdotal evidence. Will hard facts help convince her?

Between 2001 and 2004, according to the UP National Institute for Health, around 3,000 doctors left the country to work as nurses abroad. About the same number of doctors are currently enrolled in nursing, hoping to take the same career path. Galvez Tan, who has been studying the same phenomenon, says 3,500 doctors have left as nurses since 2000, and 4,000 more are enrolled in nursing.

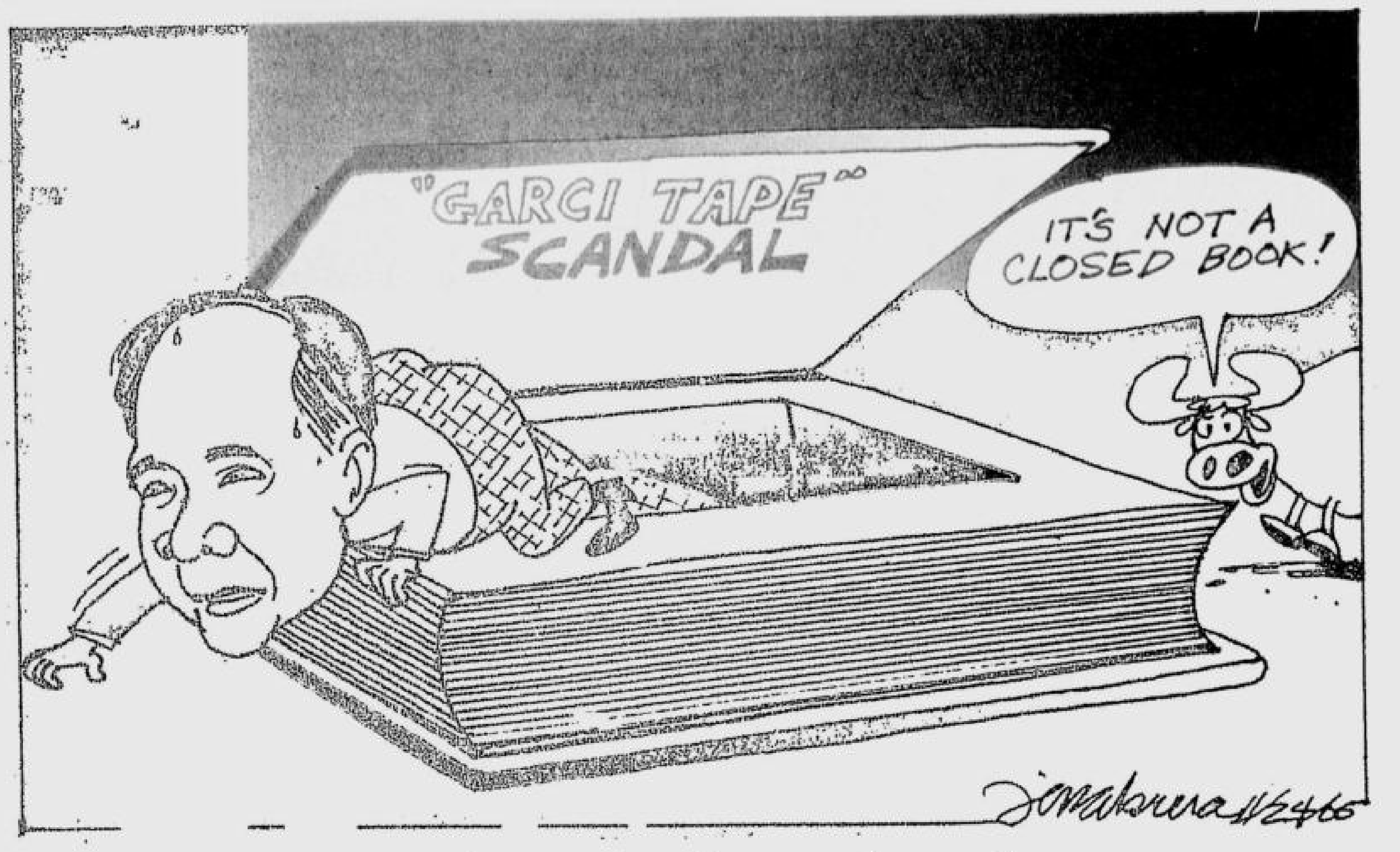
The World Health Organization puts the ideal doctor-to-patient ratio at one per 10,000 people. In the Philippines, there is one doctor for every 20,000, according to the best estimates.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration says a total of 87,572 nurses left the country from 2001 to 2004. However, Galvez Tan gives a higher estimate of 100,000 nurses leaving since 1994, half of them during the last five years. And even as 50,000 nurses found jobs abroad since 2001, Philippine nursing schools turned out only 33,370 graduates. Right there is a gap of almost 17,000 between the number of new nurses and those who have emigrated.

If Sto. Tomas cannot see a problem in the appalling doctor-to-patient ratio or having the number of emigrants outpacing nursing school graduates, maybe she should consider what these have wrought upon our hospital system. In the last five years, 1,000 private hospitals have closed, according to Dr. Antonio Chang, president of the Private Hospital Association of the Philippines. That brought down the number of private hospitals operating in the country to only 700. The reason? Mainly, the lack of doctors and nurses caused by the exodus to foreign lands of Filipino health professionals.

Now what did Sto. Tomas say about "circulatory migration"? She said that means "many of our overseas workers are leaving the country only temporarily." But it clearly is not the case with our health workers. When they leave, many of them don't look back. Otherwise there wouldn't be such a severe shortage in the country's phalanx of health professionals now. Or is there no such shortage, as Sto. Tomas insists?

Sto. Tomas doesn't see a problem, notwithstanding all the evidence, simply because she refuses to open her eyes. All she wants to count are the dollars that overseas workers send back home and not the costs of losing our country's best and brightest. The economy depends on those remittances for survival and, as far as she is concerned, it matters little if Filipinos die for lack of medical care.



Stoking the forest brawl

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

A NEW UNITED NATIONS REPORT ON CONtinuing deforestation will stoke the furious controversy that Environment Secretary Michael Defensor triggered with his August order, which allowed the return of axmen to the country's largest unfragmented rain forests in Samar.

"The world's forests are still being destroyed at an alarming rate," the Food and Agriculture Organization will reveal this coming January in its "Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005," British Broadcasting Corporation reports from Rome. That's the bad news.

The good news is: overall, denudation is inching back ever so slowly. Two first, faint hopeful signs are: new plantings and natural forest extension.

This FAO study is published every five years. This latest one covers 229 countries. More than half of today's forests of 4 billion hectares is crammed within Russia, Brazil, Canada, United States and China.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's San Jose Timber Corp., meanwhile, has published ads shrugging off the protests of Catholic bishops and green groups against Defensor's order.

"SJTC's track record on the environment is clean," the ad says. Legitimate sustainable timber harvesting is "much better than the rampant, indiscriminate...'guerrilla type' of illegal logging now rampant...Tree hugging fanatics have been discredited by recent scientific studies."

Bought in 1977 by then-martial law Defense Minister Enrile, SJTC has a valid license, the ad stressed. It did not reply to an INQUIRER report that the Securities and Exchange Commission revoked SJTC's certificate of registration on May 26, 2003, for "noncompliance with SEC reportorial requirements."

The UN agency found that an average million hectares were zapped annually over the last five years--down from 8.9 million hectares yearly between 1990 and 2000--mainly by deforestation and natural disasters, said Mette Loyche Wilkie, coordinator of FAO's study. These crimped the land from regenerating on its own.

"Nature has an amazing God-given capacity to regenerate," the late National Scientist Dioscoro Umali wrote shortly before his death. "The ruin and debris are soon swept away by nature's forgiving hand, once the hand of man is no longer lifted against her."

So have the axmen's hands been stayed? Forest cover here stood at 57 percent in 1934. It is now down to 18 percent—and still skidding. There's disagreement whether the safety benchmark is 40 percent. Or is it 30 percent? But all concur we've long breached danger markers.

One group proposes replanting a million hectares by 2020. Fine. *In kahui malabung, namumunga diiton*, the Bicolano proverb says. "A leafy tree shades many." But beyond good intentions, what? Assessing reforestation efforts from 1930 to 1997, then Environment Secretary Angel Alacala said performance fell far short.

"Replanting is not the only way to regenerate forests," notes international forester Pat Duggan. "In fact, protection of forests after logging is more crucial. Often, thousands of naturally growing seedlings and saplings are found on each hectare of forests. If protected after big trees are logged off, they'll mature over time to restore forest cover. The number of years needed depends on how carefully the logging was conducted."

How diligently have companies here cut and ensured post-logging protection? Most of them abandoned forest areas after prime logs were creamed off. Squatters and cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) then take over. That's the legacy SJTC and others labor under.

Forest areas in Asia and Europe grew, the new FAO report will say. But don't look at us. Consider instead how Vietnam, China, India and New Zealand expanded forest areas by nurturing plantations.

Fast-growing *Radiata pine* from plantations are now the main source for New Zealand's wood processing industries, notes an earlier FAO report: "Forests out of bounds." China presently has about 34 million hectares of plantations. Similar plantation forests have emerged at the "heart of wood-supply planning in Vietnam."

Theoretically, 540,000 hectares of forest plantations were established here. "Many are called 'paper plantations' because that is the only place where they exist," the International Timber Trade Organization noted. "In the field, they died from drought, sabotage, pest attacks, fire or neglect."

What's probably more damaging is the government's lifting of the log ban on politically wired firms (like SJTC) while it keeps the clamp on community-based forest projects where small farmers raise trees supposedly with government encouragement.

Today, government grudgingly allows local people to collect a few non-timber forest products. But the small farmers, who planted and grew trees under community-based forestry agreements, are prohibited from selling their products.

This skewed priority is patently unjust. Worse, it undermines the entire incentive structure for sustainable forest management. Farmers and the rural poor will not "protect forests" for the benefit of others. Why should they? All they'll get will be larger parcels of poverty.

"If local people can't earn something from the forest, the forest will be lost," FAO forester Patrick Durst stresses. "It's as clear and simple as that."

But that lucid view is muddled in a country where some people are more equal than others. The pattern in the Philippines—and throughout the region for that matter—is for the elite to corner, through their levers in government, all valuable resources. That's what the Catholic bishops and others protesting the lifting of the logging ban in Samar are saying.

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Authentic fakes

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ONE. THE JOKE IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE Moro, though these days his Christian counterpart more easily fits the bill. The Moro trader is selling gold earrings, but one of his customer decides to test the authenticity of the product. He soaks the earrings in vinegar and, alas, the gold turns to dross. Unfazed, the trader exclaims, "Ah, clearly your vinegar is fake!"

Two. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has just apologized to GMA for issuing a P100-bill that misspells her name. Instead of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, what appears on it is Gloria Macapagal-Arrovo. The BSP hastened to assure the public the bill is not fake—it is valid legal tender. In fact, the BSP urged the public to rush to get it—as a bill that makes that mistake is a first in this country. It should be a collector's item, the BSP proposed.

The apology is misdirected. The BSP shouldn't be apologizing to GMA, it should be apologizing to the public. The glaring mistake in that bill is not "Arrovo," it is "President." The "Arrovo" is real (notably given that "robo" is the Spanish word for robbery), the "President" is fake. It is a first in this country, someone who did not win the elections, having money made in her name. The bill is truly a collector's item in the same way that the Marcos bust in Agoo is a real treasure, a monument to folly and a reminder of the depths to which this country can sink. A country that likes to tolerate authentic fakes.

Well, one thing in GMA's P100-bill is real enough. Its value has gotten smaller and smaller.

Three. Juan Ponce Enrile's logging company, San Jose Timber Corp., has a license to log but not to operate as a corporation. The SEC revoked SJTC's certificate of registration a couple of years ago for failure to comply with requirements. It has not lifted its revocation. Quite apart from that, Samareños, who fear the areas in their island that Enrile is determined to despoil may become other Ormocs and Infantas, say there's a current log ban covering the entire Samar island.

Not so, say Enrile and Mike Defensor. Defensor, who issued an order in August allowing Enrile to break a 16-year logging ban in Samar, says it is perfectly legal.

Well, Enrile and Defensor have something in common. Enrile is the guy who faked an assassination attempt on himself to justify martial law and who made the term "dagdag-bawas" a household word. Defensor is the guy who abducted Panfilo Lacson's witness against Pidal and called it a rescue and who cited an American expert to prove the "Hello Garci" tape was doctored only to be refuted by the expert himself. They're both authentic fakes.

Four. What do Virgilio Garcillano and Elvis have in common? They have both been the subject of "sightings."

Some say they've seen the former election commissioner in Vietnam, others say they've spotted him in other parts of Southeast Asia. The region does not require a visa from nationals of Asean countries, thus allowing fugitives to sneak in without leaving a mark in Immigration. Still others say he's been sighted in Lanao and other parts of Muslim Mindanao, visiting relatives and other strangers. The last prompted Lacson to propose a way for Filipinos to become instant millionaires: Arrest Garci and turn him over to Congress. There's a standing P1-million reward for him.

I myself do not know how Congress settled on the bounty of P1 million. P1 for every vote of the 1 million votes GMA won over FPJ?

Aquilino Pimentel though has another theory. The only place where Garcillano can be sighted now, he says, is either heaven or hell, though the second is more likely than the first. He personally does not think Garcillano is a current resident of earth. "Someone who holds that kind of information cannot be allowed to live," he says.

Of course, someone who can fake election returns can always fake his return from life, or death. A real fake can always fake or realize a fake reality. But his real absence is the best commentary on the fake presence of the current occupant of Malacañang.

Elvis sang "Don't Be Cruel," Garcillano sang "Pipilitin ko po Ma'am." Elvis was called The King, Garcillano is (was?) just called names.

Five. During the recent Apec, GMA decried the conditions in Burma and vowed she would help bring democracy to that country. What are the signs of the lack of democracy in Burma and the robustness of it in the Philippines?

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readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph
Tel. No. 897-8808, Loc. 342; Cell Phone No. 0917-805-7412

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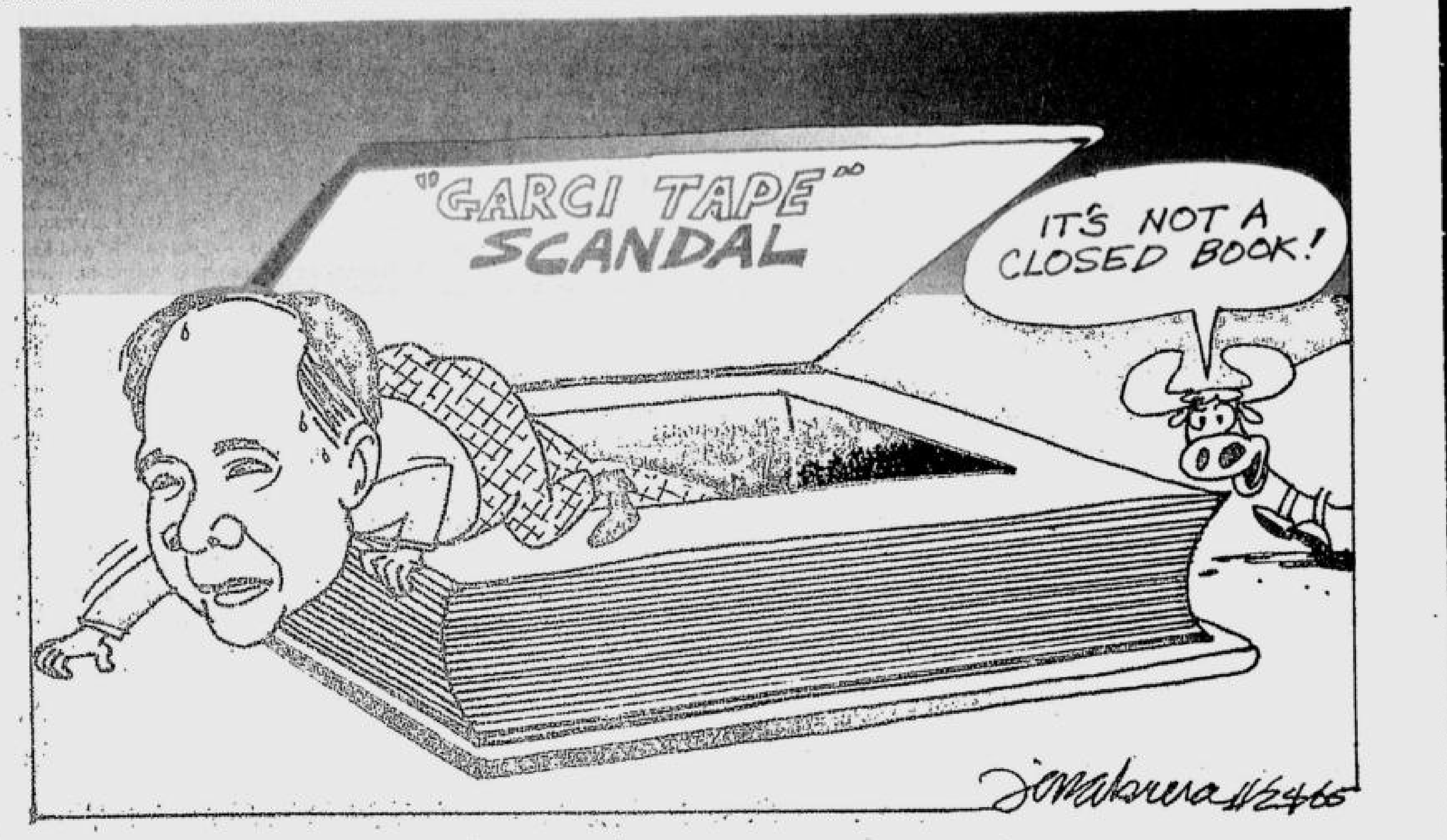

Imaginary shortage?

EDITORIAL

HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE THE BRAIN drain in the Philippine health care system?

You don't, say some Arroyo administration officials, for the simple reason that there is no such problem. And if there appears to be one, it only exists in some people's imagination. Which was essentially what Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said when confronted with warnings of a developing health crisis and an impending collapse of the health care system.

"The crisis in human medical resources is now upon us," Jossel Ebesate, secretary general of the Alliance of Health Workers, told a recent summit of health-care professionals. "The delivery of health services is being compromised." Former Health Secretary Jaime Galvez Tan said the country is "facing a serious problem and we need to address it now before it is too late."

Sto. Tomas, however, dismissed such fears as baseless. She told reporters Tuesday, "Many of us say that we are suffering from a brain drain, but it's just a perception. [It's] not supported by hard data." She pointed out that the number of nursing students has been increasing every year. "We should not worry," she said. "Those who leave will be replenished by new graduates."

Stories abound of doctors going back to school to take up nursing so they can find employment in some foreign countries. A 50-year-old lung surgeon, with 25 years of practice behind him, told Agence France Presse that more than a third of the 40 graduates of their school in 1980 have emigrated, with most of them finding employment as nurses. A 35-year-old obstetrician said more than half of the 300 doctors with whom she graduated in 1998 were now working abroad, mostly as nurses.

But such stories seem to leave Sto. Tomas unconvinced that there is a problem. She most likely puts them in the category of anecdotal evidence. Will hard facts help convince her?

Between 2001 and 2004, according to the UP National Institute for Health, around 3,000 doctors left the country to work as nurses abroad. About the same number of doctors are currently enrolled in nursing, hoping to take the same career path. Galvez Tan, who has been studying the same phenomenon, says 3,500 doctors have left as nurses since 2000, and 4,000 more are enrolled in nursing.

The World Health Organization puts the ideal doctor-to-patient ratio at one per 10,000 people. In the Philippines, there is one doctor for every 20,000, according to the best estimates.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration says a total of 87,572 nurses left the country from 2001 to 2004. However, Galvez Tan gives a higher estimate of 100,000 nurses leaving since 1994, half of them during the last five years. And even as 50,000 nurses found jobs abroad since 2001, Philippine nursing schools turned out only 33,370 graduates. Right there is a gap of almost 17,000 between the number of new nurses and those who have emigrated.

If Sto. Tomas cannot see a problem in the appalling doctor-to-patient ratio or having the number of emigrants outpacing nursing school graduates, maybe she should consider what these have wrought upon our hospital system. In the last five years, 1,000 private hospitals have closed, according to Dr. Antonio Chang, president of the Private Hospital Association of the Philippines. That brought down the number of private hospitals operating in the country to only 700. The reason? Mainly, the lack of doctors and nurses caused by the exodus to foreign lands of Filipino health professionals.

Now what did Sto. Tomas say about "circulatory migration"? She said that means "many of our overseas workers are leaving the country only temporarily." But it clearly is not the case with our health workers. When they leave, many of them don't look back. Otherwise there wouldn't be such a severe shortage in the country's phalanx of health professionals now. Or is there no such shortage, as Sto. Tomas insists?

Sto. Tomas doesn't see a problem, notwithstanding all the evidence, simply because she refuses to open her eyes. All she wants to count are the dollars that overseas workers send back home and not the costs of losing our country's best and brightest. The economy depends on those remittances for survival and, as far as she is concerned, it matters little if Filipinos die for lack of medical care.

Stoking the forest brawl

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

A NEW UNITED NATIONS REPORT ON CONtinuing deforestation will stoke the furious controversy that Environment Secretary Michael Defensor triggered with his August order, which allowed the return of axmen to the country's largest unfragmented rain forests in Samar.

"The world's forests are still being destroyed at an alarming rate," the Food and Agriculture Organization will reveal this coming January in its "Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005," British Broadcasting Corporation reports from Rome. That's the bad news.

The good news is: overall, denudation is inching back ever so slowly. Two first, faint hopeful signs are: new plantings and natural forest extension.

This FAO study is published every five years. This latest one covers 229 countries. More than half of today's forests of 4 billion hectares is crammed within Russia, Brazil, Canada, United States and China.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's San Jose Timber Corp., meanwhile, has published ads shrugging off the protests of Catholic bishops and green groups against Defensor's order.

"SJTC's track record on the environment is clean," the ad says. Legitimate sustainable timber harvesting is "much better than the rampant, indiscriminate...'guerrilla type' of illegal logging now rampant...Tree hugging fanatics have been discredited by recent scientific studies."

Bought in 1977 by then-martial law Defense Minister Enrile, SJTC has a valid license, the ad stressed. It did not reply to an INQUIRER report that the Securities and Exchange Commission revoked SJTC's certificate of registration on May 26, 2003, for "noncompliance with SEC reportorial requirements."

The UN agency found that an average 7.3 million hectares were zapped annually over the last five years—down from 8.9 million hectares yearly between 1990 and 2000—mainly by deforestation and natural disasters, said Mette Loyche Wilkie, coordinator of FAO's study. These crimped the land from regenerating on its own.

"Nature has an amazing God-given capacity to regenerate," the late National Scientist Dioscoro Umali wrote shortly before his death. "The ruin and debris are soon swept away by nature's forgiving hand, once the hand of man is no longer lifted against her."

So have the axmen's hands been stayed? Forest cover here stood at 57 percent in 1934. It is now down to 18 percent—and still skidding. There's disagreement whether the safety benchmark is 40 percent. Or is it 30 percent? But all concur we've long breached danger markers.

One group proposes replanting a million hectares by 2020. Fine. *In kahui malabung, namumunga diiton*, the Bicolano proverb says. "A leafy tree shades many." But beyond good intentions, what? Assessing reforestation efforts from 1930 to 1997, then Environment Secretary Angel Alacala said performance fell far short.

"Replanting is not the only way to regenerate forests," notes international forester Pat Duggan. "In fact, protection of forests after logging is more crucial. Often, thousands of naturally growing seedlings and saplings are found on each hectare of forests. If protected after big trees are logged off, they'll mature over time to restore forest cover. The number of years needed depends on how carefully the logging was conducted."

How diligently have companies here cut and ensured post-logging protection? Most of them abandoned forest areas after prime logs were creamed off. Squatters and cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*) then take over. That's the legacy SJTC and others labor under.

Forest areas in Asia and Europe grew, the new FAO report will say. But don't look at us. Consider instead how Vietnam, China, India and New Zealand expanded forest areas by nurturing plantations.

Fast-growing *Radiata pine* from plantations are now the main source for New Zealand's wood processing industries, notes an earlier FAO report: "Forests out of bounds." China presently has about 34 million hectares of plantations. Similar plantation forests have emerged at the "heart of wood-supply planning in Vietnam."

Theoretically, 540,000 hectares of forest plantations were established here. "Many are called 'paper plantations' because that is the only place where they exist," the International Timber Trade Organization noted. "In the field, they died from drought, sabotage, pest attacks, fire or neglect."

What's probably more damaging is the government's lifting of the log ban on politically wired firms (like SJTC) while it keeps the clamp on community-based forest projects where small farmers raise trees supposedly with government encouragement.

Today, government grudgingly allows local people to collect a few non-timber forest products. But the small farmers, who planted and grew trees under community-based forestry agreements, are prohibited from selling their products.

This skewed priority is patently unjust. Worse, it undermines the entire incentive structure for sustainable forest management. Farmers and the rural poor will not "protect forests" for the benefit of others. Why should they? All they'll get will be larger parcels of poverty.

"If local people can't earn something from the forest, the forest will be lost," FAO forester Patrick Durst stresses. "It's as clear and simple as that."

But that lucid view is muddled in a country where some people are more equal than others. The pattern in the Philippines—and throughout the region for that matter—is for the elite to corner, through their levers in government, all valuable resources. That's what the Catholic bishops and others protesting the lifting of the logging ban in Samar are saying.

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Authentic fakes

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

ONE. THE JOKE IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE Moro, though these days his Christian counterpart more easily fits the bill. The Moro trader is selling gold earrings, but one of his customers decides to test the authenticity of the product. He soaks the earrings in vinegar and, alas, the gold turns to dross. Unfazed, the trader exclaims, "Ah, clearly your vinegar is fake!"

Two. The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has just apologized to GMA for issuing a P100-bill that misspells her name. Instead of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, what appears on it is Gloria Macapagal-Arrovo. The BSP hastened to assure the public the bill is not fake, it is valid legal tender. In fact, the BSP urged the public to rush to get it—as a bill that makes that mistake is a first in this country. It should be a collector's item, the BSP proposed.

The apology is misdirected. The BSP shouldn't be apologizing to GMA, it should be apologizing to the public. The glaring mistake in that bill is not "Arrovo," it is "President." The "Arrovo" is real (notably given that "robo" is the Spanish word for robbery), the "President" is fake. It is a first in this country, someone who did not win the elections, having money made in her name. The bill is truly a collector's item in the same way that the Marcos bust in Agoo is a real treasure, a monument to folly and a reminder of the depths to which this country can sink. A country that likes to tolerate authentic fakes.

Well, one thing in GMA's P100-bill is real enough. Its value has gotten smaller and smaller.

Three. Juan Ponce Enrile's logging company, San Jose Timber Corp., has a license to log but not to operate as a corporation. The SEC revoked SJTC's certificate of registration a couple of years ago for failure to comply with requirements. It has not lifted its revocation. Quite apart from that, Samareños, who fear the areas in their island that Enrile is determined to despoil may become other Ormocs and Infantas, say there's a current log ban covering the entire Samar island.

Not so, say Enrile and Mike Defensor. Defensor, who issued an order in August allowing Enrile to break a 16-year logging ban in Samar, says it is perfectly legal.

Well, Enrile and Defensor have something in common. Enrile is the guy who faked an assassination attempt on himself to justify martial law and who made the term "dagdag-bawas" a household word. Defensor is the guy who abducted Panfilo Lacson's witness against Pidal and called it a rescue and who cited an American expert to prove the "Hello Garci" tape was doctored only to be refuted by the expert himself. They're both authentic fakes.

Four. What do Virgilio Garcillano and Elvis have in common? They have both been the subject of "sightings."

Some say they've seen the former election commissioner in Vietnam, others say they've spotted him in other parts of Southeast Asia. The region does not require a visa from nationals of Asean countries, thus allowing fugitives to sneak in without leaving a mark in Immigration. Still others say he's been sighted in Lanao and other parts of Muslim Mindanao, visiting relatives and other strangers. The last prompted Lacson to propose a way for Filipinos to become instant millionaires: Arrest Garci and turn him over to Congress. There's a standing P1-million reward for him.

I myself do not know how Congress settled on the bounty of P1 million. P1 for every vote of the 1 million votes GMA won over FPJ?

Aquilino Pimentel though has another theory. The only place where Garcillano can be sighted now, he says, is either heaven or hell, though the second is more likely than the first. He personally does not think Garcillano is a current resident of earth. "Someone who holds that kind of information cannot be allowed to live," he says.

Of course, someone who can fake election returns can always fake his return from life, or death. A real fake can always fake or realize a fake reality. But his real absence is the best commentary on the fake presence of the current occupant of Malacañang.

Elvis sang "Don't Be Cruel," Garcillano sang "Pipilitin ko po Ma'am." Elvis was called The King, Garcillano is (was?) just called names.

Five. During the recent Apec, GMA decried the conditions in Burma and vowed she would help bring democracy to that country. What are the signs of the lack of democracy in Burma and the robustness of it in the Philippines?

One, Burma has no elections; the Philippines has fake elections. Two, Burma is ruled by a vicious junta without the consent of the governed; the Philippines is ruled by a ruthless cabal without the consent of the governed. Three, Burma will not allow people like Aung San Suu Kyi to say what they have to say about the junta; the Philippines does not allow people, like Francisco Gudani and Alexander Balutan, to say what they have to say about the cabal. Burma gags its journalists; the Philippines kills its journalists. Burma has remained one of the most backward and impoverished countries in the world; the Philippines has become one of the most backward and impoverished countries in the world.

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Six. The First Couple say they went to Disneyland in Hong Kong for their *apos*(grandchildren). Look at the picture of them that appeared in the INQUIRER and see if that's so. They looked absolutely thrilled. The *apos* were probably bored.

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SEA Games sked should be published

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT'S TIME FORMER ELECTION COMMISSIONER Virgilio Garcillano returned to face the music. As a precondition for facing any inquiry, he is demanding that the entire nine-hour tapes—and not just the parts on "the woman who sounded like President Macapagal-Arroyo"—be played. This demand is only fair. If the Remulla committee rejects this precondition, then it would give rise to perceptions that the committee doesn't want to ferret out the whole truth. Grace Garcillano said her husband wants to show that more opposition leaders, not just the woman sounding like GMA, actually called him during the campaign and after the elections, all of them merely wanting to protect their votes. Among his callers was a "persistent" lady opposition candidate (who is widely believed to be either Loren Legarda or Jamby Madrigal).

. The problem with Garci's demand is that the one who claims to have in his possession the "mother of all tapes," former NBI official Samuel Ong, has not surfaced. He should come out with his tapes, in fairness to Garci.

* * *

The cities of Metro Manila have been spruced up for the 23rd SEA Games which opens on Sunday, Nov. 27, at the Luneta. The multi-colored lights and huge white fluorescent posts along Roxas Boulevard may be a bit too garish for me but, as my husband says, what the heck, at least the boulevard is well-lit and generates excitement.

Many citizens want to cheer for Team Philippines, but because the games will be held in separate venues in Metro Manila, Southern Luzon and part of the Visayas, it might be hard to keep track of all of the events. It might be a good idea if the organizers could publish the schedule (date, time and place) of all the sports events in the newspapers, so that people can clip them for easy reference. Metro Manilans can follow the various events not just here but also in Los Baños, Subic, Pampanga and Canlubang.

* * *

As this column was being written, the House of Representatives was scheduled to vote on a concurrent resolution authorizing Congress to convene as a constituent assembly for the purpose of tackling amendments to the Constitution. House leaders were confident that it would be passed overwhelmingly. But the question is, what happens next? There has to be a counterpart resolution passed from the Senate to put it in effect, but to all indications, the senators, fighting for survival of their chamber, would not consider passing one. The prospect of Senate inaction, however, should not deter the House. It should tackle one obstacle at a time and ultimately bring it before the people. This Saturday, I'll feature Dr. Jose V. Abueva's observations in the consultative meetings held in seven cities recently.

* * *

I erred in my account of how Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin overcame the poverty of his youth and rose to become one of the top Muslim leaders of the country. I said he studied law at the University of the Philippines. Actually, he studied political science up to third year at Western Mindanao University in Zamboanga City while he was connected with Region XII, and finished at the Basilan State College when he was already governor of Basilan. He also finished three years of law in Basilan but discontinued his studies due to his political duties.

But there's an upside to Salapuddin's struggle to educate himself, being the son of a poor Basilan farmer. One of his priority concerns in Congress was to set up a scholarship program for children from the poorest families and to date, he has given away more than 5,000 scholarships, 15 percent of them to Christians and the rest to Muslims mainly from Basilan's Yakan tribe. His former scholars include mayors, provincial board members, councilors, public school teachers and government employees.

* * *

Because surviving in business is so tough these days, I always want to lend a helping hand to entrepreneur-friends. One of them is Deo B. Cumarat, who returned after working for seven years as a hair stylist in the Middle East and Europe, and put up Deo BC Salon in Makati. After three years in the business, Deo BC finally has a new home that's cozier and has a warmer ambience (for a cheaper rent). It's located at Unit 2-B of Valuepoint Bldg., 227 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati, a stone's throw away from his old salon. Contact Deo BC at 817-6585 and 817-6598.

In the past two years, Deo BC and Erda Foundation, which was founded by Fr. Pierre Tritz, have been working hand in hand. Deo BC trains Erda's non-formal beneficiaries of its subsidiary NGO, Palitan ng Husay at Sanayan (Palihan), in various aspects of the beauty business. Palihan trains these young women from the poorest families in some skills so that one day they could open their own beauty parlor or earn some income from manicuring while raising families. Some years back, President Arroyo donated P5 million to Palihan, with the explicit instruction that it be used for training women from ages 18-25 in livelihood skills. Over the years, Deo's successful trainees have grown in number, prompting him to put up last Sept. 15 a new salon, called Beleza, at the ground floor of El Rico Suites, 1048 Metropolitan Ave., Makati, with Tel. Nos. 897-0064 and 897-0063.

* * *

- **Paging my golden jubilarian High School Class '56 of Holy Ghost College. There's a class get-together courtesy of Aida Zita-Reichert tomorrow, Friday, at 5:30 p.m. at the German Club, Euro Villa 2, 118 V.A. Rufino (formerly Herrera St.), near Legaspi St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.**
- **For *kababayans* abroad: Roger Olivares' recently launched book, "Noli Me Tangere 2," is now available in the United States. Visit his website www.noli2.com or call 1-800-766-5224.**

Without regrets

YOUNG BLOOD

Gail I. Monzon

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THE PLACE IS CROWDED. THERE'S NO TABLE AVAILABLE, but that's not really a problem. You drink your beer and light a cigarette. You look around and try to see if you know somebody in the crowd, but you can't really see faces because of the blinking lights.

Lights off. You see nothing, but you can feel the people dancing to the beat, their breathing, their sweat, the smoke from their cigarettes, their passion.

Lights on. For less than a second, you see their faces. Some have their eyes closed. Others are dancing very close—too close—to each other, with eyes glued on each other. You see faces but you can't really remember what they look like. They don't leave any impression on your mind. It's like a dream about riding fast cars or trains passing by.

You begin tapping your foot, trying to be re-acquainted with the music. You sway your hips and nod your head. You close your eyes but immediately open them again because you don't want to cheat. You don't want to force yourself. You drink what remains of your beer to free your hand.

You walk to the middle of the dance floor. Your skin suddenly feels an odd familiarity. This time, you close your eyes and try to remember how you once lost yourself to the music.

Rewind to three years back. Delete the 12-hour job, the monthly bills, the deadlines, the empty relationships you forced yourself to believe were real and all the responsibilities that came with your desire for independence.

Add the energy, the passion, the stupidity, the recklessness, the loud laughter, the simple happiness, the curiosity, the friendships you put over your family, the soul mates you see among the beautiful people you have chosen to spend your waking hours with.

This is one of the scenes that usually run through my head as I ride the jeepney. Instead of getting annoyed by the smog, I daydream. During the past two years of my life, I have ridden one hell of a roller coaster.

I've made big decisions and yet I always thought of myself as the timid one. I was always the scared one who would let opportunities pass. Then I did it: I left my home for 22 years and, with only my clothes and little else besides, moved to start a new one.

Unbelievably, I found it easy—just like playing house. But a lot of the credit should be given to the person I chose to be with. This person was already made and polished when we met.

Going through the scene in my head, I admit that I miss that life. I miss going out with my friends anytime I wanted. I miss seeing a sunny day as a perfect day to go out, and not to do the laundry. I miss dancing the night away and watching the sun rise on the way home. I miss my drinking buddies and my friends who never allowed me to get drunk. I actually miss having "designer" coffee (it's all about the brand, even if our "generic" coffee actually tastes better). I miss not having to worry about the electric bill and the budget for groceries.

Before I left my old home, I was living a very comfortable life. We were not rich—just comfortable. And OK, I was spoiled. It was only last year that I realized I had never bought a bag with my own money. Every little thing I owned was bought by mommy. I already had a job then, but I wasn't expected to contribute anything to the maintenance of our home. I had all my salary to myself, plus an occasional allowance from mommy. That's how rotten I was.

Two years ago, I wanted to grab life and take a bite of it. This is not about biting off more than I can chew, though. This is about facing challenges head-on. This is not about regrets. This is about having zero what-if's and facing the consequences of your actions. This is not about pointing fingers and blaming yourself or somebody else. This is about realizing that instead of wasting your time blaming yourself or others, you should be up and thinking about solutions already.

Which is what I did.

Gail I. Monzon, 23, has a bachelor's degree in psychology and works as publications coordinator of the Institutional Communication Office of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas.

Deadly playgrounds, cold numbers

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

I HAVE LOOKED INTO THEIR EYES. I HAVE watched some of them cock their rifles and aim at an imaginary enemy lurking behind the trees. I have aimed my camera at them and captured the resoluteness in their gait as they carried the heavy weight on their frail bodies.

I saw these so-called child soldiers for the first time in the 1980s in a rebel training camp in the mountain fastness of Samar. In Bicol, I also saw a young girl, maybe all of 16, carrying a rifle.

My body ached after that journalistic foray into the jungle, but I did come up with a long story. We used the photo of the young boy carrying a long firearm, marching with grizzly rebels, in the Sunday INQUIRER.

That was many years ago, but the images still burn in my mind. What a heavy burden for these children, I thought. I tried carrying some of the heavy metal that the rebels carried and wore a bandoleer of bullets across my chest for a photograph of myself. But that was for the fun of it. I still have that photo. In the background, heavily armed rebels played *dama*.

Now the law says you can no longer use the photographs of minors in a publication, or show their faces on TV, or identify them if they have been involved in illegal activities or are victims of crimes.

I recall these things again because of "Deadly Playgrounds: The Phenomenon of Child Soldiers in the Philippines" published by PhilRights. According to PhilRights, a human rights research group, the book "presents the sociodemographic profile, reasons, circumstances and effects of involvement, dreams and aspirations, of the 194 child soldiers (CS) interviewed in the study."

PhilRights does not claim that the results and conclusions of the study are representative of the whole population of child soldiers in the Philippines, but the study should be able to give an idea what the world of these children is like.

PhilRights says that the "major finding in this research is the absence of force or the voluntary nature of [the] children's involvement in armed groups."

In its harsh editorial a few days ago, the INQUIRER questioned PhilRights' statement that the children joined the armed conflict without coercion or with freedom. PhilRights' finding: "Children join armed groups for reasons that include, but are not limited to, poverty, government neglect and apathy to the plight of the poor, ideological beliefs, secessionist advocacy and support for holy war, affiliation of family members in armed groups and pursuit of justice to avenge atrocities and abuses."

But even as PhilRights points a blaming finger at the government for its failure in addressing social problems that give rise to rebel groups, it also reminds non-state actors (with children among their ranks) about children's rights. PhilRights does point out strongly that the CS phenomenon is an outright violation of children's rights.

PhilRights sure has a long list of recommendations for the government and for civil society and stakeholders in the peace process.

For non-state armed groups who have children in their ranks PhilRights' recommendations are a measly two paragraphs—that they respect the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Comprehensive Agreement on the Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

PhilRights' research (funded by Bread for the World-Germany) is heavy stuff because of its academic and scientific approach. It groans with statistics, tables, graphs and numbers that buttress the findings and conclusions. This is not for inspirational reading. It is not for bleeding hearts. It sounds like a doctoral dissertation. Is this because PhilRights' executive director has a Ph.D.?

It leaves me cold. The children are never quoted or allowed to tell their story. I thought, what a pity. Weren't PhilRights' field researchers also made to gather the personal stories of the CS? What a world they could have explored. Or did they stick strictly to the checklist type survey instrument?

I have an appreciation for the weight of statistics but, as I said, they leave me cold. I'd like to see numbers but I'd also like to hear voices. PhilRights did use some children's drawings only for one of their chapter breakers.

The Philippine Coalition to Stop the Use of Children as Soldiers did it differently. They made us listen to child soldiers. One said: "I often carried an M-16. The heaviest I held was an M-14. It was so hard to cock and load. It was even made heavier by the bag of bullets. I once carried an M-203 with bullets as big as batteries. Upon joining, we were trained to fire, disassemble and clean guns. M-14s, M-16s, M-203s, and what to do in an ambush."

Voices from "My Gun Was as Tall as Me: Child Soldiers in Burma," published by Human Rights Watch, an international human rights group:

"I left home and joined the armed group because I wanted to run away from my family because it was so bad and noisy. There was so much trouble and I hated getting hurt by my own family."

"I carried an armalite, an M-16. I was trained to use a gun, how to fire it, how to dismantle and assemble it. The training included hopping over rocks, crawling, rolling. That was for three weeks."

A few years ago the INQUIRER had for a banner photo that of a young rebel girl seated among the ferns in the jungle, looking bewildered and frightened. A dead rebel lay beside her. It was the aftermath of a bloody encounter.

A soldier shot that photo. It spoke a thousand words. It stunned me, moved me. I wrote a column piece on it, and still it haunted me for days.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

The Supremo's end

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

APOLINARIO MABINI WROTE, "(AT TEJEROS, Bonifacio declared that) as head of the Katipunan, he did not recognize the validity of the decisions reached. Nevertheless those elected took possession of their offices and, in high dudgeon, he went off with his two brothers to the mountains of San Mateo. Two companies of soldiers were sent after him to arrest him. Bonifacio resisted. As a result, he was wounded thrice; one of his brothers and three of the soldiers were killed. The soldiers were able to take Bonifacio and his other brother to Naic, thence to Maragondon, and afterward to Mount Buntis where the two brothers were shot."

In the Ayala museum, the diorama portraying the trial of Bonifacio has the Supremo dressed in a *camisa chino* with his arm in a red sling, but he looked fairly neat. He sits on a chair, looking calm. The judges are dressed in the *rayadillo* of the Army of Malolos.

The real scene must have been far less inspiring. The Supremo himself would have been bloodstained, exhausted from his wounds and in shock over the death of his brother and his own captivity. And judging from the behavior of military men during martial law, I would imagine that the people involved in the court martial exhibited pomposity, arrogance, cruelty and sneering cowardice. (Watch one kangaroo court and you've seen them all.) Shades of Maximilian Robispierre's trial.

The bloodied Bonifacio either inspires a mix of outrage and pity, or contempt spurred by a sense of poetic justice. Admirers of the Supremo would be horrified to imagine the degradation he had to go through at the hands of men who, not so long before, hailed him as the liberator of his country. Feelings of pity couldn't be avoided, for we all know what he must have felt; and what his loved ones, his steadfastly loyal brothers and, particularly, his wife must have witnessed: the ability of ordinary people to turn into monsters the moment power is put in their hands. Think of all the hundreds of men, women and children who died by the hand of soldiers, and think of their families. You have seen them on television or read about them; and you have something to relate, in a real sense, to Bonifacio's fate.

I suspect, however, that those who have no love for Bonifacio or the Revolution he headed, must think of Robispierre when they imagine Bonifacio's trial. When the decimated members of the Revolutionary National Assembly decided that The Terror had lasted long enough (their already decimated ranks faced the imminent danger of being completely annihilated at Robispierre's orders), they had him arrested.

Robispierre knew what was coming and tried to shoot himself. But he bungled the attempt and succeeded in blasting off his own jaw, with collateral damage in the form of one of his eyeballs popping out. He was found in this grisly condition and hauled off for what passed for a trial in those times; then he was summarily sentenced to be guillotined.

I can imagine those who dislike Bonifacio cackling over his fate, muttering that those who live by the sword deserve to die by the sword—the more humiliating the circumstances, the better.

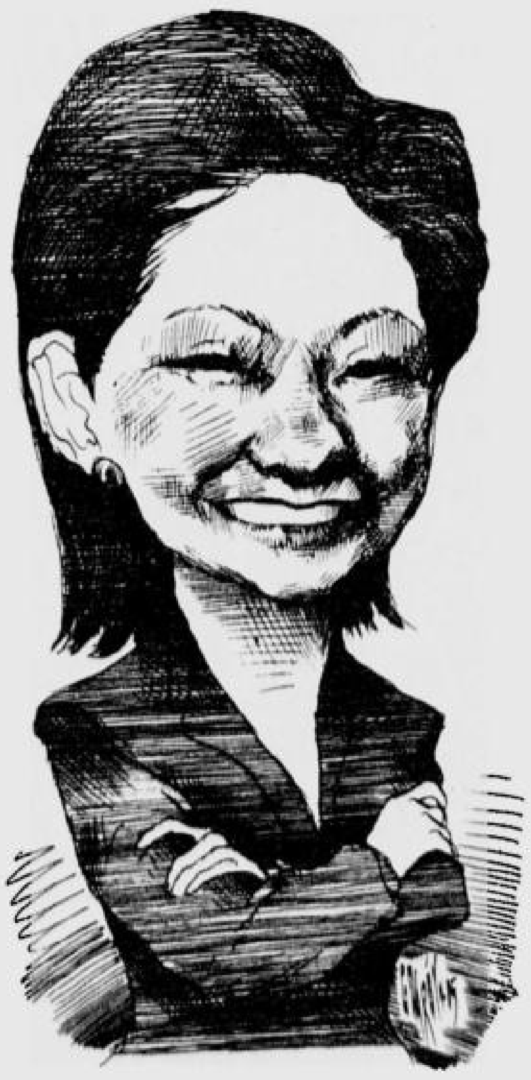
But Bonifacio was no Robispierre. He was no semi-neurotic egotist obsessed with wiping out his enemies. He was the greatest of what we'd call today the grassroots organizers. He was a man who exemplified much of the best and some of the worst in the Filipino character.

We commemorate his 142nd birth anniversary come Nov. 30. Accounts tell us that Bonifacio died on his knees, weeping, begging for his life. His manner of dying was no better or worse than the way hundreds, if not thousands of his fellow patriots died by the hands of the Spaniards, the Americans, the Japanese, the Huks, the New People's Army, the Philippine Army and the Philippine Constabulary. Some may wish that he died with the self-control exhibited by Rizal; but Rizal himself wrote in his letters that his determination to die calmly and serenely was inspired by the negative example of Father Burgos, who died howling for pity.

The circumstances surrounding Bonifacio's death have resulted in a harsh judgment of Emilio Aguinaldo. We should also remember that the day Bonifacio was killed also marks the lowest point of Aguinaldo's life in the eyes of many people. As Mabini wrote: "The general opinion finds no justification, not even mitigation, for such a manner of proceeding. Andres Bonifacio had no less schooling than any of those elected in the aforesaid [Tejeros] assembly, and he had shown an uncommon sagacity in organizing the Katipunan .... Bonifacio, although he had established his integrity, was looked upon with distrust only because he was not a native of the province: this explains his resentment. However, he did not show it by any act of turbulent defiance; seeing that no one was working for reconciliation, he was content with quitting the province for San Mateo in the company of his brothers. When it is considered that Mr. Aguinaldo was primarily answerable for insubordination against the head of the Katipunan...; when it is appreciated that reconciliation was the only solution proper in the critical state of the Revolution; the motive for the assassination cannot be ascribed except to feelings and judgements which deeply dishonor the former; in any case, such a crime was the first victory of personal ambition over true patriotism."

But then there's a contrary view: Revolutions cannot tolerate a divided leadership, just as all great political movements must be led by one person, or at least a united group. In a revolution, when the leadership—old or newly assumed—is challenged, the challenger must be shot.

IN THE NEWS



Tessie Sy

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Truth comes in nice wrappers

LET ME START BY SAYING THAT I totally sympathize and agree with President Macapagal-Arroyo's criticism of our penchant for the negative. No matter how often she repeats, "the public wants winners, the public wants winners," we still cover only "losers who carry no public mandate." There is no excuse for us to banner stories on Manny Salgado and La Salle when we can cover FEU.

In her State of the Nation Address, Ms Arroyo told us the Philippines was divided between winners who were "poised for a take-off" and losers who were a "hindrance to progress." Why do we concentrate on the hindrances? Don't winners also deserve to hear about how well their stocks are doing and how much cheaper their next shopping trip abroad will be because of the strong peso? Ms Arroyo assured us that "the portrait of a nation on the verge of economic takeoff is unassailable." Doesn't anyone believe her? She is not asking us to lie. She is only asking us not to look under the rocks. Is that so difficult?

What is the point of informing the public that Ms Arroyo incurred more debts than any legitimate president? Why remind people that the EVAT was passed to pay for dollar-denominated loans she incurred in their name? Why suggest a link between the loans and her profligate spending before the elections? Why can't we simply report that she succeeded in devaluing the dollar against the peso? Our role is not "to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable," that is the role of Jose Maria Sison.

We keep on carping about Hello Garci when we should be hailing Ms Arroyo's million-vote victory margin. We refuse to lend credibility to the arguments of Winnie Monsod and Mike Defensor. Instead, we allow Rene Saguisag to retort, "She won anyway?...The Monsod-Defensor (Mike) doctrine will never do in San Beda—or, OK, in the bar—in that a summa grad who cheated and got 90 percent would not be expelled or punished somehow, because sans cheating he would have passed anyway."

We run stories about Ms Arroyo's "mea culpa" when she actually said "tua culpa" and pointed to the system as the one that needs to be changed, not her.

I am afraid we are "becoming part of the national malaise and a hindrance to development rather than an important solution to our problems."

Already, 600 independent-minded civil society women have stopped watching our networks because they are tired of "the coverage of kangaroo courts, lynch mobs and witch hunts (that) assails the peace of mind and the hopes of our people."

I don't want to sound alarmist, but we will lose our monopoly on truth if we don't learn how to package it. Truth, Malacañang would say, comes in nice wrappers.

It's time we stopped behaving like "nattering nabobs of negativism." Let as mutate ourselves into pandering puppies of positivism.

—MANUEL BUENCAMINO,
Action for Economic Reforms,
40 Matulungin St.,
Central District, Quezon City

Educational system to blame for lack of competent leaders

WHY IS IT THAT FINDING A good leader nowadays is like looking for a pearl? Are we now running out of good leaders?

If there is difficulty today in finding good leaders, it's because of our educational system which focuses on the development of the intellect. Under the system, we are taught that what's most important are the grades and the medals and being No. 1 in class. We are very happy when our child shows great talents and abilities or excels in class. As a result, the heart is being left out, and it is the heart that makes a good leader. Our skewed educational system is the reason why we have a crisis of leadership.

The focus of our educational system must, therefore, be changed. The teaching of values must be given more time because what matters most is the heart.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you; and what profits a man to gain the whole world and lose his life in the process?" As what is important is not the present but the hereafter, the next life, the real life. What is essential is not the "what we have" but the "what we are." Regretfully, even if we know that the heart is very important, we do not try to develop our hearts to become virtuous and upright.

The result of the latest survey that says the young generation of today is getting more uncharitable and disrespectful should jolt us into remedial actions. What will happen to our country if such a trend continues? It's high time to review our school curriculum. Religion and values formation should not only be taught in all levels. They should also be given more time.

—FR. RUFINO PEPOYE CABATINGAN,
St. Rita Parish, Gingoog City

Inept lawmakers

I TEND TO AGREE WITH THELMA Bueson. (PDI, 11/15/05) We go to clinics and hospitals expecting to be treated by doctors and not by quacks or *albularyos*; we send our children to schools confident that the teachers are properly schooled and well-qualified.

But here we are having lawmakers who do not even have a decent college education. They can't even participate in the debates and interpellations during legislative deliberations.

Incidentally, the movie personalities—especially the Americans—mentioned by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada in his tirades, were running governments, not enacting laws.

Finally, for as long as we continue to elect actors and persons without the necessary qualifications and abilities to enact laws, our spiral down the drain will continue.

We only deserve what we are getting now, a Senate that is stagnant and not up to its mandate, preoccupied with political infighting and jockeying. God help us.

—NIXON PRINCESA,
princesa@un.org

'Twas the call of Class 1955

I AM ALMOST FLATTERED THAT your eminent jurist columnist, Isagani Cruz dedicated a whole column to me again. (PDI, 11/12/05) This was apparently in defense of what he perceived to be my "attacks" against him in a previous letter. I assure him and all INQUIRER readers that my letter was intended to set the record straight amid his innuendoes.

He took much issue over the request for my attendance at the Ateneo Alumni Homecoming, saying, so unkindly, that I was not even a graduate of Class 1955. He added that my attendance would cost the government precious public funds that could instead be squandered elsewhere. (My classmates generously offered to assume this cost since this was the only basis for the opposition of the prosecution panel.)

I am most gratified that my classmates have not turned their back on me and, to this day, still consider me as a member of their class. Unlike Cruz, they set no technicalities, no assumptions, no premises, no presumptions and no preconditions. They continue to believe, unlike Cruz, that I am a member of Class 1955 because "once an Atenean, always an Atenean."

This spirit is, perhaps, something Cruz cannot or refuses to understand, in the same vein that he has practically prejudged my guilt, even if several witnesses have testified that I do not own the controversial Velarde account, or that the money alluded to in the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation remains intact to this very day.

As had been said before, I was not expelled because of bad grades. I was expelled because I defended a classmate from being bullied, and to this day, I do not regret that decision. *Alam ng* Class 1955 *iyan, kaya hanggang ngayon itinuturing nila akong miyembro ng klaseng ito* (Class 1955 knows this, that's why, until now, it considers me its member).

I hope Cruz can do the same and (like his namesake in the same column space, the respected Neal Cruz) take the cudgels for the Filipino people now being bullied by a government whose claims to legitimacy hangs in doubt, and whose misuse of public funds has been the subject of scandal after scandal.

—JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA

Mothers' Day should be in December

MAY I RESPECTFULly recommend that the INQUIRER promote the celebration of Philippine Mother's Day and Father's Day on Dec. 5, 2005.

It is my observation that the Filipino people still celebrate Mother's Day in May (American practice). Presidential Proclamation No. 58 s-1998 and DepEd Memorandum No. 259, s-2002 have declared the first Monday of December as Mother's Day and Father's Day.

—FRANCISCO T. SAN MIGUEL,
Paraiso, Maybangkal,
Morong, Rizal

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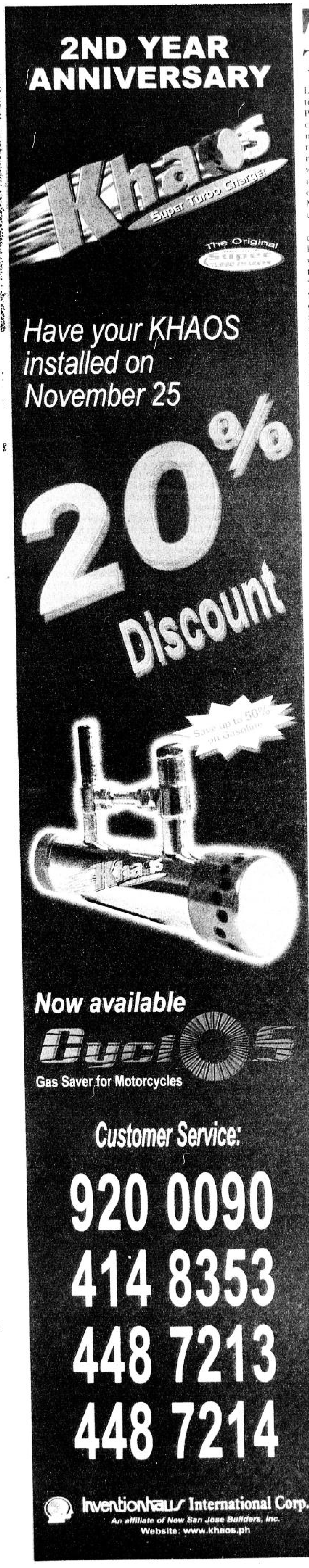
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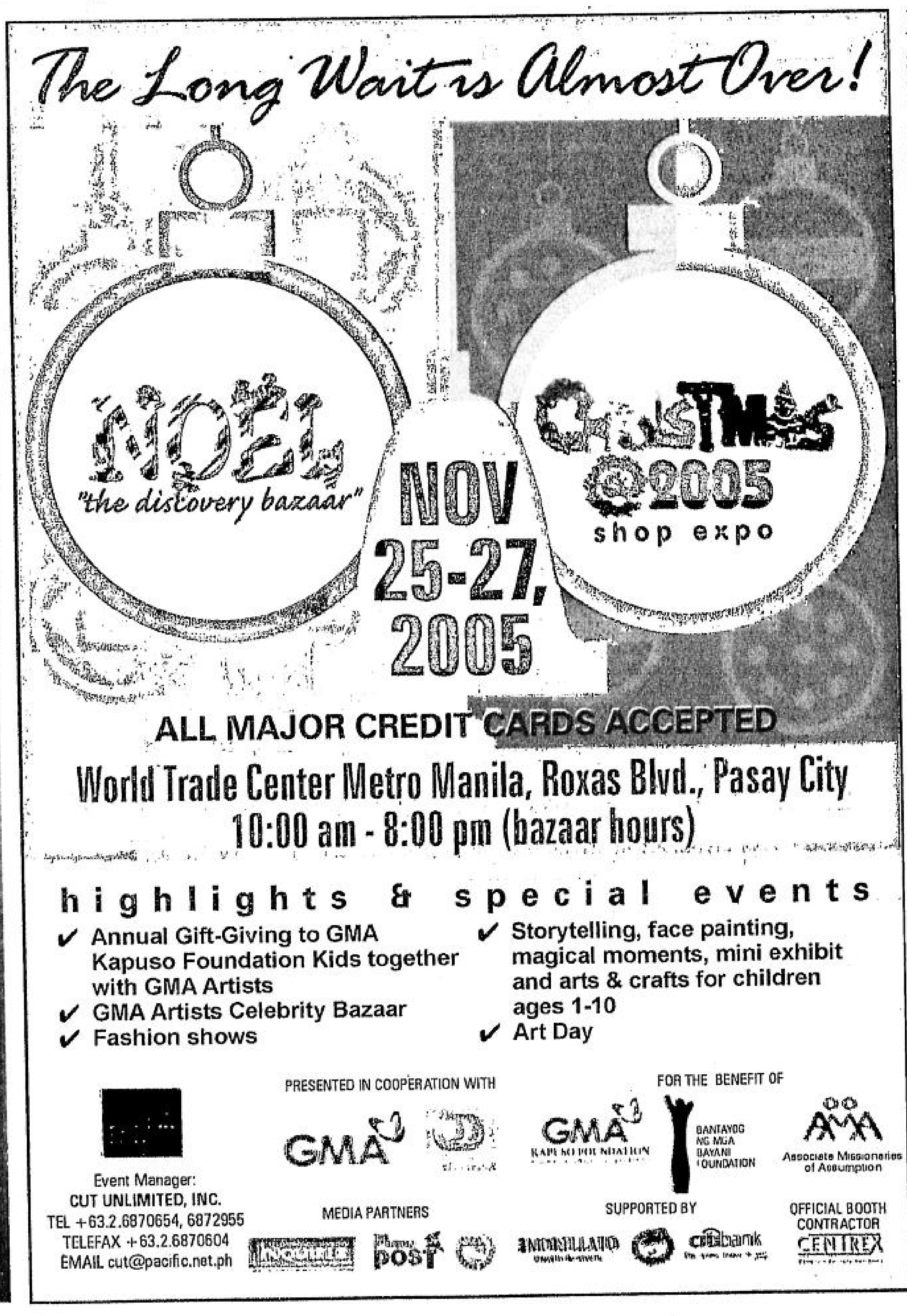
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MEMBERS of the Tanggol Kalikasan, a legal defense center for the environment, enlist the support of volunteers in the campaign against quarrying in Mt. Banahaw in Quezon. DELFIN T. MALLARI JR.

Wanted: Lawyers for environment

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

RAUL ZAPATOS, A FORMER FOREST GUARD BASED in Bayugan, Agusan del Sur. Jose Fabrique, a former police officer in Sibuyan, Romblon. Julio Versoza, a government forest ranger assigned to guard the Mt. Isarog Natural Park in Camarines Sur. Rolando Rey Recto, a councilor in Buenavista, Quezon.

They come from different areas of the country but share life stories of courage as zealous defenders of Mother Earth's fragile environment. Because of their commitment, they have been harassed, coerced and marked for liquidation by people behind the rape of nature's wealth in their places.

Their stories were told before participants of a recent three-day Luzon-wide conference on environmental paralegal and law enforcement in a resort hotel in Tayabas, Quezon .

More than 90 paralegal, community and law enforcers from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources narrated experiences of joy and pain in protecting the environment.

The event was sponsored by Tanggol Kalikasan (Defense of Nature), a public interest environmental legal defense center, and the Foundation for the Philippine Environment. It was co-funded by the Ford Foundation and the Center for International Environmental Law-US Agency for International Development.

"We thought of this conference for environmental paralegal and law enforcers because of increasing challenges and problems hurled against them, including cases of harassment, physical violence, demotion, transfer, marginalization and the like. Perhaps, we can find solutions to their problems," said environmental lawyer Asis Perez, TK executive director.

Perez said some of the problems and issues on environmental protection had already been identified but his group wanted the people directly involved to relate their own stories, pains and woes, and the lessons they learned. "We want to validate our findings," he said.

The TK, manned by a pool of environmental lawyers and paralegals, has been operating for 17 years, with offices in strategic parts of the country.

When the participants began telling their stories, the whole assembly listened.

Behind bars

Zapatos spent four and a half years behind bars for strictly enforcing anti-illegal logging laws, which led to the killing of their mayor, Leonardo Cortes, on Jan. 14, 1990.

That night, unidentified men rained bullets on the DENR checkpoint that Zapatos and other forest guards were manning. Earlier, the group had seized a truck loaded with illegally cut logs.

Zapatos immediately grabbed an Armalite rifle and fired back at the attackers, not knowing that he had fatally hit the mayor, the truck owner.

His case caught international attention and he was hailed as another icon of environmental protection. Environmentalist groups across the globe campaigned for his release from jail.

In September 2003, the Supreme Court reversed the decision of the Sandiganbayan and set Zapatos free.

Fabrique used to be with the Sibuyan, Romblon police force, with a rank of Senior Police Officer 3.

"When I arrived in Sibuyan, the first thing I noticed was the impressive thick forest of Mt. Giting-Giting. I swore to myself I would protect it," Fabrique narrated.

He was disappointed when he learned that local officials and policemen were behind the illegal logging activities in the mountain.

Undaunted by the risk to his safety and profession, he launched a crusade to strictly enforce environmental laws.

"Because of mounting harassment against me, I refused to report [for work] and was classified as an Awol (absent without official leave). I was terminated. But I explained my reason, I filed a complaint and I was vindicated," Fabrique said.

Forest ranger

Versoza is a DENR forest ranger assigned to the Mt. Isarog Natural Park, a vital watershed in Camarines Sur.

The area is the source of drinking water of 15 municipalities and one city and irrigates about 67,400 hectares of farmlands, aside from being the habitat of several indigenous flora and fauna species.

But like other mountains, Isarog faces problems of slash-and-burn farming, wildlife hunting, illegal logging and treasure hunting.

The perennial hunt for the fabled Yamashita treasure proved to be the major threat to the mountain, and Versoza pointed to a local judge as allegedly behind the activities.

Harassed with lawsuits by the judges, Versoza landed at the Ocampo municipal jail for robbery charges of spurious circumstances.

For Recto, the young municipal councilor, the presence of gold in their town and his advocacy to prevent the damaging effects of mining to the environment forced him to live in fear.

Recto said he learned that his enemies had been planning to liquidate him.

Support

According to a TK study conducted by lawyer Ma. Ronely Sheen, the government has done little to enforce its environmental policy because of the lack of knowledge of enforcers and the slow judicial process. The bigger irony is the inadequate legal support for environmental protectors, volunteers and state workers, it said.

"Anecdotal information is replete with examples of enforcers who have been harassed with lawsuits and bodily harmed for enforcing environmental laws. Also, due to the shortage of lawyers in the government, these law enforcers are often constrained to hire private lawyers for their own defense," the TK report added.

The study found that the failure to prosecute violators was primarily due to the lack of lawyers in local DENR offices.

"Legal assistance is sometimes limited to affidavit preparation only. No proper safekeeping of material evidence. Sometimes, evidence is lost in transit or is stolen while in the custody of the DENR," it said.

Sheen lamented that the pathetic government attitude toward implementing environmental laws had resulted in serious demoralization among the ranks of state environmental protection enforcers.

"They lose their enthusiasm, they feel helpless and useless. It ruins their credibility. They now have the tendency to be lax in law enforcement," she said.

Some are totally dismayed and lose interest in filing or pursuing the case against the violators, knowing that harassment suits, in return, could deny them promotions, loans and retirement benefits—aside from being barred from traveling abroad, Sheen said.

Logistics

Zapatos, who now works as property custodian at the DENR regional office in Cagayan de Oro City, has learned his lesson. He advised the department to have a ready and adequate fund to shoulder the cost of forest protection.

"Sad to admit, government support in this aspect of environmental protection is wanting," he added.

He lamented that the DENR was not able to assist him in his legal defense. He was grateful to his co-workers who shelled out money for his bail.

"The rest of my legal defense costs—bail money, lawyer's fees, etc.—came from my personal fund," Zapatos said.

"My fellow rangers were demoralized with the DENR neglect of my case. I was like a beggar then, asking for every centavo to fund my court battle," he recalled.

The only financial assistance he received from the department, according to Zapatos, was a pledge by then Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez to compensate him P50,000 for every year of his incarceration. He said he received the allotted amount for 2001 and 2002 only.

Zapatos also believed that forest rangers must be armed for their protection. "Without a gun, a forest ranger is an easy target for intimidation while performing his duty," he said.

He clarified that the rifle he used in shooting back at the illegal loggers belonged to an Army soldier who left it in the barracks that fateful night.

Few lawyers

Perez said the inputs of the conference were discussed in a meeting of lawyers. "We aim to build a network of reputable trial lawyers to defend environmental defenders who may be threatened or harassed with court cases for doing their duty as environmental law enforcers," he explained.

The TK has a pool of only five lawyers, he said. He estimated that only 20 lawyers were part of the legal network on environmental protection advocacy in the country.

"We believe that there are more individual practitioners of environmental lawyering who are not yet part of the network. We should pull them in," Perez said.

The DENR has signed a memorandum of agreement with the Washington-based Center for International Environmental Law and the TK for the formation of a pool of lawyers who would serve as legal defenders of government personnel and volunteers who are subjected to legal harassment for enforcing environmental laws.

The project is called "Defending the Defenders Project."

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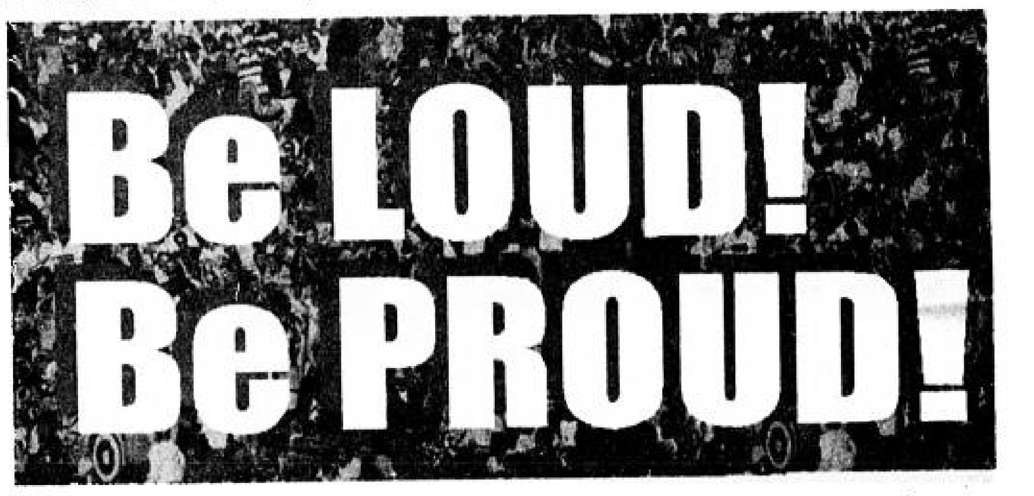

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Athletics	Nov 27 to Nov 30 and Dec 4	Track and Field Stadium, RMSC, Manila/ Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City
Badminton	Nov 28 to Dec 3	Philsports Multi Sports Complex, Pasig City
Baseball	Nov 28 to Dec 4	Baseball Stadium, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Manila
Bodybuilding	Dec 2 to Dec 4	GSIS Teatro, Pasay City
Bowling	Nov 28 to Dec 4	Pearl Bowling Center, Paranaque City
Cycling *MTB*	Nov 28 to Nov 29	Ramon M. Durano Sports Complex, Danao City
Dancesport	Nov 27	Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City
Gymnastics	Nov 29 to Dec 5	Rizal Memorial Basketball Coliseum
Judo	Dec 1 to Dec 4	Mandaue Coliseum, Mandaue City
Karatedo	Nov 27 to Nov 29	Mandaue Coliseum, Mandaue City
Muay	Dec 1 to Dec 4	GSIS Gym, Pasay City
Pencak Silat	Nov 30 to Dec 4	Cebu Coliseum, Cebu City
Taekwondo	Nov 28 to Nov 30	Cuneta Astrodome, Pasay City
Sepak Takraw	Nov 27 to Dec 4	University of San Carlos Gym, Cebu City
Swimming	Nov 29 to Dec 4	Trace College, Los Baños, Laguna
Volleyball	Nov 28 to Dec 2	University of St. La Salle Grounds, Bacolod City

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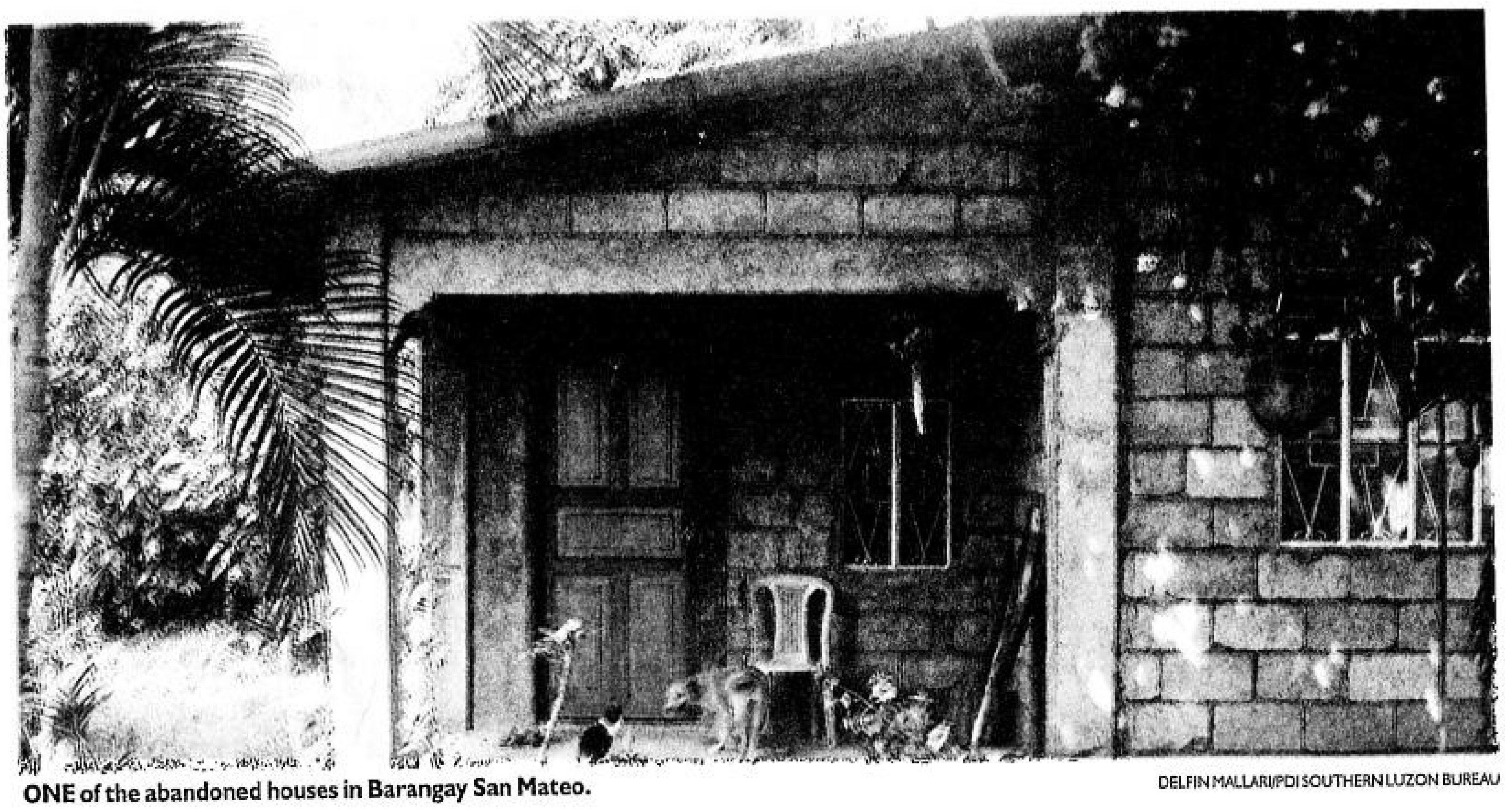
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: inq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Evacuation starts in Quezon village

DOLORES, QUEZON—Under a noon sun, Bella Lucero, with her four-month-old daughter Vanessa in her tight embrace, crossed the rusty steel bridge to leave San Mateo Village here yesterday.



ONE of the abandoned houses in Barangay San Mateo.

DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The mother and daughter were among 800 families from the villages of San Mateo, Antonino, Manggahan, and Barangay Bungoy in this town who fled their homes since Monday for fear of being caught in the crossfire between communist gunmen and government soldiers.

"The volleys of gun shots were deafening. I'm afraid that stray bullets might hit my baby and me," Lucero told the INQUIRER.

A ride was offered Lucero, her mother, daughter, and two other relatives, out of San Mateo, where houses have been deserted, their windows and doors securely locked.

"This is now no-man's land," said one villager.

Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., head of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Camp Nakar, advised reporters to avoid going to villages.

"It is still dangerous," he said in a mobile phone interview.

Maj. Jose Broso, Solcom spokesperson, said the number of evacuees from the villages in Candelaria, Tiaong and Dolores could reach more than 5,000 persons.

Pets and farm animals freely wandered around the empty village of San Mateo, with the mystical Mt. Banahaw looming in the backdrop.

The sound of helicopters breaks the village's silence.

A group of women walked on the provincial road to Dolores Poblacion.

"The sound of gunfire won't stop," said Crispina Libit, one of the evacuees.

Dolores Mayor Rolando San Jose cancelled all classes in public and private schools in this town since Tuesday.

He also suspended government transactions at the municipal hall.

"I don't want my people, especially children, to be caught in the crossfire," he said.

The Church and town hall became temporary shelters.

The mayor was able to talk with communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal.

"Ka Roger assured me that the NPA rebels are a disciplined lot and would not harm the civilians," the mayor said.

Cipriana Montierro, local social welfare and development officer, said there is no more space for the refugees in the town hall.

Food is running short and children are getting sick, she said.

Trauma among children, however, is the biggest concern, she added.

"Surely, they will need counseling once this is over," she said.

A congressman donated relief goods, most probably from his pork barrel funds.

Tanggol Kalikasan, an environmentalist group, transformed its office in Lucena City into a relief operation center.

Broso said teams of doctors and social workers are ready to help the evacuees.

"Once the smoke of the battle has been cleared, we will begin searching for fresh burial ground for dead rebels," he said.

In Barangay Anastacia, Tiaong, evacuees started to return home after two days in a refugee center at the municipal hall.

Most, chose to stay with relatives, according to Armando de Guinio, a farmer from Anastacia. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cops say abducted student released

CALAMBA CITY—A FEMALE NURSING student who was reported abducted by still unidentified men in San Pablo City last week was released over the weekend after her parents paid ransom, a police official said yesterday.

An intelligence officer of the Calabarzon police, who asked not to be identified, said the victim's parents paid the P50,000 ransom demanded by the suspects.

The police official said the family of the victim apparently did not inform the police that they were already negotiating with the kidnappers.

He said the victim was released unhurt at around 3 a.m. on Sunday, two days after she was abducted.

The source said the victim was dropped off by the suspects in Barangay Imok in Calauan town, near the boundary of San Pablo City.

"As of now, the victim is still in a state of shock over what happened to her. When she's ready, we will be talking to her so we can get information on her abduction," the official told the INQUIRER. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Warning of clashes drives Sulu evacuation

By Julie Alipala and Edwin Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—LOCAL LEADERS in Sulu expressed outrage over the military's distribution of flyers that caused panic among residents, forcing some to flee their homes.

Social Welfare Administrator Ruby Sahali, of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said the number of evacuees has reached nearly 10,000 when an Air Force plane dropped flyers warning residents of Sulu of the continued military operation against Abu Sayyaf bandits, considered allied with the Southeast Asia-based terror network Jemaah Islamiyah.

"Tension among residents of Sulu has started to subside when fighting gradually stopped, except for few sporadic skirmishes in Indanan (town)," said Sahali, who condemned the random distribution of flyers by the military.

"The English version was not alarming but the Tausug translation was what caused panic among the villagers," she said.

The flyers bore pictures of military hardware and apparent military offensive in the offing "frightened residents," especially with the subsequent warning "to stay home, avoid soldiers and, if possible, stay in hiding," she said.

Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said the flyers that rained from a military aircraft "surprised us, because it was done without our knowledge."

"They should not have done that without consulting us of its content and the intent that the Armed Forces would wish to put across," Loong said.

Government troopers, mostly Marines, have engaged the Abu Sayyaf and members of the Moro National Liberation Front loyal to its former chair, Nur Misuari, in a gunfight since Nov. 11. The ground battle and aerial bombings have displaced thousands of civilians in the towns of Panamao, Panglima Estino and Indanan.

"We were surprised by the military strategy to drop leaflets that, upon reading its content, had caused apprehension and heightened the already tense situation in Sulu," said Indanan Mayor Sarip Ali.

Sahali said when the Southern Command of the Armed Forces in Zamboanga City announced it was not running after the MNLF-Misuari group but only targeting the Moro extremist Abu Sayyaf, tension eased a bit.

"Not only has tension flared anew, it has also seen internally displaced persons growing in number as they squeezed into jam-packed evacuation centers," Sahali said.

ROUNDUP

Enough rice assured

LEGAZPI CITY—Albay has enough rice available to last for 30 days after typhoon "Pepeng" hit the Bicol region Friday, an inventory by the National Food Authority in Albay showed. The NFA has a total stock of 230,855 bags of rice that is sufficient to fulfill the daily average rice requirement of Albay, said a report released by Eden Redillas, NFA Albay provincial manager. NFA also received a total of 115,847 bags of imported Vietnam rice in November for distribution to the Bicol region. Prices, the NFA said, remain stable. *Gina Rodriguez, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Bird flu alert up in town

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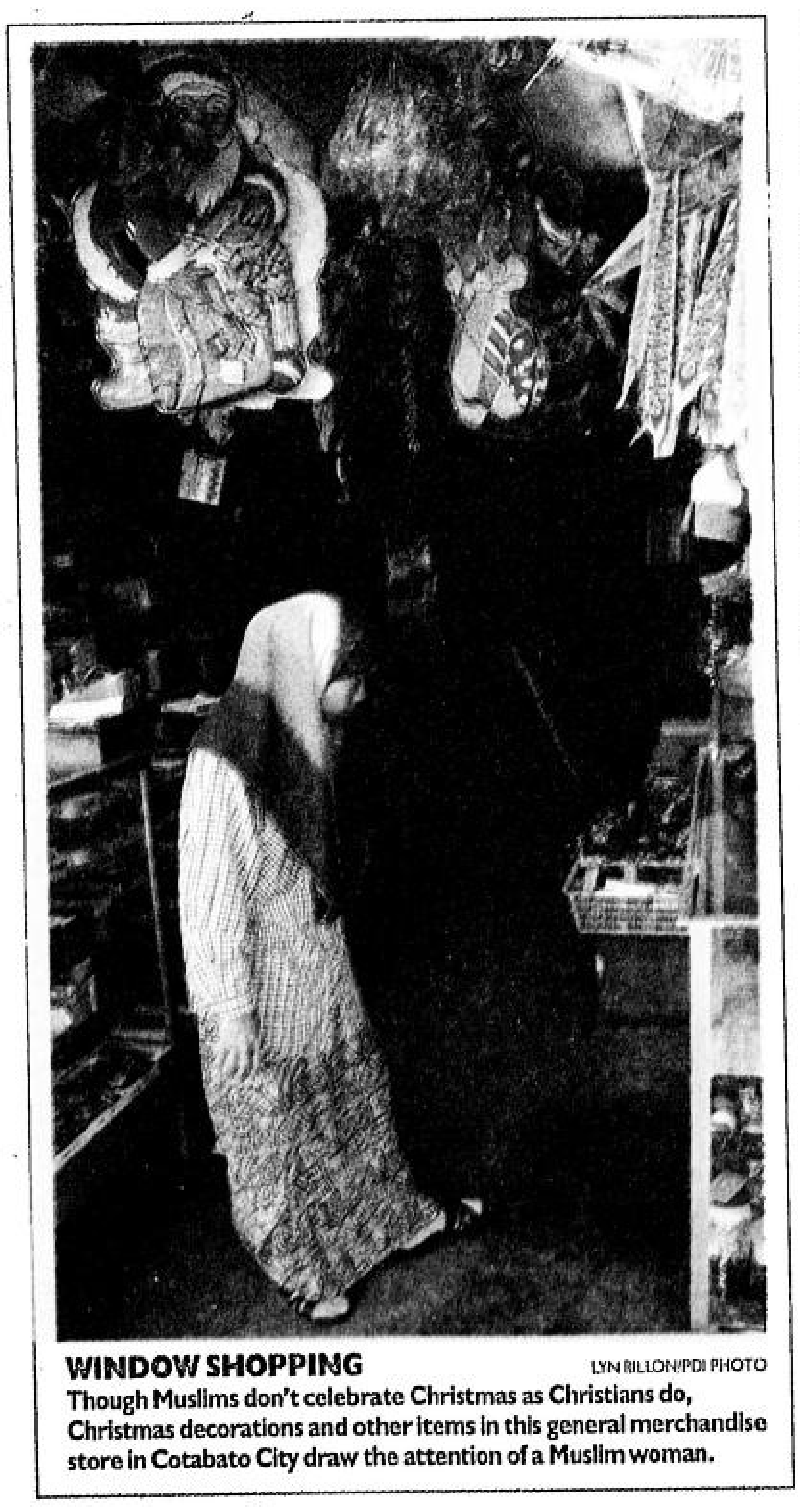
SORSOGON CITY—The Department of Agriculture has included the town of Prieto Diaz in the avian flu watch list as the government intensifies its monitoring of areas frequented by migratory birds. Regional veterinarian Benedicto Abordo said Prieto Diaz, which is about 45 km southeast of this city, was included in the list because of the presence of various migratory birds in its mangrove forests. Only the towns of Bulan and Matnog are in the original list. Abordo was part of the group that visited the city recently to brief local officials in the province about the dangers of the avian flu and the efforts being made by the government to prevent its entry into the country. *Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Rape, murder suspect falls

TABACO CITY—A 39-year-old suspect in frustrated rape with murder and frustrated murder charges 10 years ago has been arrested by lawmen in Oriental, Mindoro. Alejandro Rodriguez Jr., a resident of Barangay Sto. Cristo in this city before he went on hiding, was No. 1 in the list of the most wanted persons of Tabaco police and also included in the regional list. He has reward of P300,000 for his arrest. Rodriguez went on hiding after killing Anastacia Lontac and seriously wounding Lontac's daughter, Irene. Rodriguez allegedly tried to rape Irene and killed Anastacia when Anastacia tried to fight him off. Rodriguez also stabbed Irene several times.

Man draws death for rape

BAGABAG, Nueva Vizcaya—After eight years, justice has finally been served to a 24-year-old woman here when the regional trial court sentenced to death the man who raped her in 1997. But she has to bear with the fact that the person she is sending to the death row is her own father, and the father of her child. The abuses happened in 1997 while the woman's mother was working abroad as a maid, the court said. In a nine-page decision issued on Nov. 14, RTC Judge Jose Rosales also ordered the father to pay his daughter P125,000 in damages. Court records showed that the woman was first raped in April 1997, when she was 16 years old, in their house in Barangay Tuao South here. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



WINDOW SHOPPING LYN RILLON/PDI PHOTO

Though Muslims don't celebrate Christmas as Christians do, Christmas decorations and other items in this general merchandise store in Cotabato City draw the attention of a Muslim woman.

Flying school student killed in plane crash

LUCENA CITY—A FLYING SCHOOL student died and another was injured when the two seater plane they were piloting crashed on the island town of Perez in Lamon Bay past noon yesterday, police said.

Senior Supt. Vicente Caragan Jr., Quezon police chief, identified the fatality as Michael Lim. His name was in an ID that was found in his wallet.

The injured student was identified as Fidel Gabriel Jr., 23, a resident of Caloocan City.

The two were students of the PATTS school of aeronautics in Pasay City.

Caragan Jr. said he would call the phone number found in the wallet of Lim to get in touch with his family and inform them of the tragic accident.

The police official said the wreckage of the plane was found some 100 meters away from the shore.

He said Gabriel Jr. was rushed to the Alabat General Hospital. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Negros Church leader calls for truce

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A CHURCH leader in Negros Occidental has called on the government and rebel forces to return to the negotiating table and resolve their differences instead of further killing each other in an escalating violence that can lead to an all-out war.

"Negros Occidental has seen peace in recent years. Let us not burden the people already faced with other problems with a war that will lead to the suffering of innocent civilians," said Msgr. Victorino Rivas, Bacolod Diocese vicar general.

He also called on the faithful to pray that violence would not escalate and that peace would prevail.

Rivas issued the call following the attacks staged by the New People's Army (NPA) that left nine soldiers dead in Calinog town, Iloilo on Saturday and three others in Quezon province on Tuesday.

Last Monday, government troopers shot and killed seven suspected communist rebels in Palo town, Leyte. But militant groups claimed the victims were innocent farmers.

NPA spokesman Gregorio Rosal Monday vowed that they "would step up their tactical offensives and deal body and head blows" to the Arroyo administration.

Malacañang said the military offensive against the NPA would be pursued without letup even as an investigation of the bloody clash in Leyte was in order to ensure that rules of military engagement were observed.

Rivas said such offensives should be pursued in a calculated manner so as not to cause further violence that would harm civilians.

"Total war is not a wise path to take ... we are against any form of violence from whichever side," Rivas said.

Rivas said he was expressing the sentiments of the greater majority who did not want their hardships to worsen.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said he agreed with the need for the military to go on an offensive against the rebels following the ambush in Calinog.

"When the need for the military or police to defend themselves arises through offensives, they should do it," he said.

Senior Supt. Charles Calima, Negros Occidental police director, said law enforcers have a standing order go on the offensive.

"We will restrict rebel movement to prevent them from staging attacks through intensified intelligence work and combat operations," he said.

He said the police and military in Negros Occidental have good coordination.

Subic rape case: Women lawyers vs all-male team

From page A1

sent as "a sign of good faith."

He said the subpoenas served on Nov. 8 were sufficient to call them in.

Contentious

The hearing took a contentious turn just 10 minutes into the proceedings when the defense asked for more time to file the soldiers' counteraffidavits, given that the complainant's lawyers had filed a supplemental affidavit by witness Ma. Fe Castro.

Citing the rules of court, Francisco Rodrigo Jr., representing Chad Brian Carpentier, invoked his client's right to reply to new evidence cited in Castro's affidavit.

The other lawyers—Jose Justiniano and Emmanuel Peña Jr. for Albert Lara and Corey Burris; Benjamin Formoso for Daniel Smith; and John Coluso for Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis—supported Rodrigo's motion.

The woman's lawyers asked for a two-minute recess to settle the issue.

When the hearing resumed, Rodrigo said: "We are ready to file our counteraffidavits. We're not asking for more time. We are not begging, but we are entitled to it."

He had originally sought 10 days to file the counteraffidavits and another 10 days to reply to the Castro supplemental statement.

Justiniano urged the woman's lawyers to "put all [their] cards on the table."

The woman's lawyers agreed to a shorter extension.

Toward the end of the hearing, Prosecutor Jalandoni gave the defense lawyers five days to file the counteraffidavits, including the reply.

He set the second and final hearing on Nov. 29.

Material witness

Bazar called Castro a "material witness."

Her colleague, Christine Sevilla, said Castro gave "material facts" and "detailed descriptions" of what she saw almost midnight of Nov. 1 near the Alava Pier in the Subic Bay Freeport.

Castro said she and her seven companions saw three Caucasian-looking men and an African-American unload the woman from a rented van along the road in that area.

It was also where the USS Essex of the US troops was docked and set to leave the next morning after a two-week counterterrorism training.

According to Bazar, Castro was absent from the hearing because she did not feel well. She was represented by her lawyer, Randy Escolanggo.

Only three witnesses—Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority security officer Noel Paule, security guards Gerald Muyot and Tomas Corpuz Jr. of Neptune Bar and Restaurant where the woman and the soldiers had met—attended the hearing. They were not questioned.

Lara—who, Justiniano said, was "somewhere in Olongapo"—was to confront van driver Timoteo Soriano Jr. at the hearing.

But neither Soriano nor his lawyer was present.

Lara had sought the confrontation in connection with his request to be dropped as a suspect. He had said he did not fit the descriptions given by the complainant, Soriano and several witnesses.

Why 6?

It being a clarificatory hearing, Jalandoni called Pedro Bautista and his superior, Paquito Torres of the SBMA intelligence and investigation service office, to explain why six names were in the list of suspects.

Bautista said it was Torres who had provided him the list of names. Torres initially invoked the confidentiality of his source, but said later in the hearing that the names had been obtained from Ben Natividad, a special assistant to SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga.

Torres said Natividad had "reliable information" which was relayed in a text message.

Torres spoke under oath but declined to speak further because he had no lawyer by his side.

The defense lawyers noted Torres' reliance on a text message, and asked if it was a standard operational procedure at his office to "indict a person based on an information not based on a written statement."

Torres said driver Soriano had confirmed the identities of the soldiers when they were presented to him.

He also denied using force on Soriano to make him say that a "gang rape" had happened. "That's not true," he said.

Soriano has yet to submit a statement recanting his sworn statement.

Protests

Outside the Olongapo Hall of Justice, pro- and anti-American protesters gathered as early as 8 a.m.

At least 300 policemen were sent to secure the area and maintain order, said Senior Supt. Florencio Buentipo, city police chief.

Some 50 members of the Tactical Alliance of Non-Communist Organizations for Democracy (Tanod) led by lawyer Elly Pamatong demanded the transfer of the hearing to Guam.

Members of the women's party-list group Gabriela shouted slogans demanding a fair hearing for the woman and the junking of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement.

About 200 members of the Partido ng Manggagawa and Sanlakas also massed at the Ulo ng Apo Rotonda in Olongapo.

Shouting "Out Now," members of the militant groups Bayan, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Gabriela and Anakpawis marched from the Rizal Triangle to the main gate of the Subic port.

The militant groups took turns in calling for the junking of the VFA, which they described as a one-sided agreement in favor of visiting US military forces.

Pro- anti-comments

"All Filipinos should stand in solidarity with the rape victim, and the US troops must be made accountable under Philippine laws," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

"The Philippines must assert custody of the suspected US troops. Let us not allow the US government to toy with our legal system, no matter how imperfect it may be," he said.

The Partido ng Manggagawa said it was "appalled" at how the Philippine government was handling the case.

"In a recent meeting with US President [George W.] Bush, President Macapagal-Arroyo chose to practice her social manners rather than demand custody of the US military personnel involved in the case," it said.

Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza said Ms Arroyo was paving the way for a whitewash of the case.

"At this point, it has become clear that we cannot rely on the Arroyo government, even in this case of such heinous proportions committed against a Filipino," Maza said.

Pamatong's group burned a Chinese flag to protest what he said was the leftist groups' "prejudgment of the case."

He said the Chinese flag was "the flag of the left-leaning Gabriela group." *With a report from Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Survivor: Soldiers kicked the wounded

From page A1

Military officials had earlier said the fatalities, including a woman seven months pregnant, were members of the communist New People's Army. They said the soldiers led by Lt. Adrian Luel Beñedicto were responding to a report on the presence of armed men in the area when they were fired upon.

But cause-oriented groups said that the incident was a "massacre," and that those killed were farmers who were preparing to plant rice on that day.

Margallo, 30, was invited to testify at the CCTA, which is hearing allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo committed poll fraud and violated human rights, among other charges.

He arrived in a wheelchair at the congress, which held its final session at the William Shaw Theater of the De La Salle University on Taft Avenue, Manila.

Eyewitness account

Recounting the attack, Margallo said 46 farmers, four of them women, converged at the barn on the farm of his grandfather, Pedro Margallo, at about 8 p.m. on Nov. 20, in preparation for a cooperative planting activity.

He said the farmers had brought along three hand tractors and bolos.

This was Margallo's account:

At about dawn of the next day, a farmer said there were "strangers" outside the barn. Within minutes there was gunfire, and Margallo's brother-in-law Roel Obijas was hit in the chest.

The farmers ran for cover. Margallo dropped to the ground behind a tree.

The soldiers, who appeared to be walking toward the barn, shouted at the farmers to come out and fight.

The farmers shouted back that they were civilians, but the soldiers continued firing.

Upon reaching the barn, the soldiers stopped firing and started kicking the wounded and hitting the others with rifle butts.

'Planted guns'

"We were told to lie face down, then they stepped on our bodies," Margallo said.

He said the soldiers searched the barn but found nothing. Later, he said, another soldier entered the barn and emptied a sack that contained a cal .38 handgun, homemade shotguns, carbines, and even an M16 assault rifle.

"They said the guns were ours. But we only had bolos and the three hand tractors," Margallo said.

The military had earlier said that the "encounter" was a "legitimate operation," and that it was a group of NPA guerrillas that had fired at the soldiers first, prompting the latter to fire back.

But Margallo, who is also a barangay kagawad (council member), denied this, saying: "We are not NPA. We are civilians. There was no encounter."

Dispute over land

Margallo said the farm was the subject of a case pending at the Department of Agrarian Reform. He said the farmer-claimants had won the case but that his grandfather had refused to turn over the land to them.

In Leyte, the wife of one of those wounded said the shooting might have been triggered by the dispute over the 14-hectare property.

Lolita Orceda, 48, said she could see "no other reason" behind the attack.

She said her husband Ronilo, 42, had no enemy "except the person claiming to be the owner of the land."

"My husband is just an ordinary farmer who wants to give his family a decent living," Lolita said, adding:

"I plead with our government to please help us. What happened to my husband has ruined our lives. I don't know where to go. We are helpless. We don't have money for his medical needs."

Ronilo Orceda is confined at the Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center for bullet wounds in the left check and abdomen.

His nephew, Eric Nugal, 18, was among those killed. The others were Bernabe Borra Jr., Eufemia Barbosa-Borra, Roel Obijas, Perlito Borra, Gerry Almerino and Alma Bartoline, who was seven months pregnant.

Still on appeal

Pedro Margallo, 74, said he found it unfair that he was being linked to the shooting.

"I don't have any contact with [the military]," he said.

He also insisted that he still owned the property, and said the farmers were occupying it even in the absence of Certificates of Land Ownership Awards.

The dispute over the property has been going on since 1998.

The DAR, through its adjudication board, resolved the dispute in favor of the farmers in 2001. But Pedro Margallo filed an appeal at the DAR central office.

"It is still on appeal. There is no finality yet. And I don't know when the central office will issue a decision," Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer Enrique Granados said of the case.

Granados said his office recognized Pedro Margallo, not as the land owner, but only as a claimant, because the latter was holding only a tax declaration on the property.

"A tax declaration is not a proof of ownership. It is just evidence that he was in possession of the land. He should have a title of ownership to prove that he really owns the land," Granados said.

CHR inquiry

A four-member team from the Commission on Human Rights in Eastern Visayas (CHR-8) has started looking into the shooting.

"There were several lives lost in that incident. That is why we have this investigation that we hope to finish in two weeks," said Ben Malquisto, CHR-8 chief of the investigation division, who is heading the team.

Malquisto said the team had begun gathering testimonies from survivors and the relatives of those killed.

"Good for us that these witnesses are cooperating with our investigation. They can really give us accounts on what happened on that day," Malquisto said.

He said the team's findings would be made public.

Taking care of kids starts with taking . . .

From page A1

ternal deaths as among the three biggest problems confronting Filipino children.

Causes

He listed the causes of maternal death as the following:

- Only 60 percent of deliveries are facilitated by a trained health personnel.
- In rural areas, about 80 percent of deliveries are done outside hospitals or other health facilities. Pregnant women usually run to local "hilots."
- Only about 37 percent of pregnant women get injected with two doses of tetanus toxoid while more than 50 percent are found to be iron-deficient.

Pre-natal checkup

To avoid maternal deaths, Alipui said all births should be attended by trained personnel. Pregnant women should get at least "four complete pre-natal checkup visits."

Pregnancies should also be spaced at least three years apart, he said. There are 5,000 babies born every day in the country.

Alipui also listed the ongoing armed conflicts in the country as among the biggest problems of Filipino children. "The chronic armed conflict is like a hemorrhage which drains the country of its assets and resources," he said.

In Mindanao, the never-ending conflict has left about 2,000 orphans over the past six years, according to Ulama League of the Philippines head Elias Macarandas.

The children, mostly below 15, are fast becoming easy recruits for armed groups, he said.

"These children are left with no recourse but to join armed groups," Macarandas said at the forum, where he represented the Islamic community in the First Inter-Faith Leaders' Dialogue, which aims to bring together religious communities to promote and protect children's rights.

"If we do not attend to their needs, they will continue to join or even organize their own armed groups," he said.

Macarandas said that in Lanao del Norte alone, at least 600 children lost their fathers or even both their parents to the conflict since 1999, when violence escalated.

Then President Joseph Estrada declared an all-out war against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in 2000.

Services not reaching victims

But the figures reaching Macarandas' group represent only part of the grim reality.

"Some hide their loss. It is considered a blemish in the reputation of a family if a member is killed, but the family has not yet taken revenge," Macarandas said.

The conflict is also restricting access to decent education and basic government services from affected Muslim children. "For some reasons, government services are not really reaching the real victims," he said.

His younger sister Sharifa, who had set up a nongovernment organization in Lanao del Sur, appealed to bigger civic groups to provide assistance directly to the victims, instead of channeling funds to local government units.

Old tales persist of financial assistance, even from international organizations, always ending up in the pockets of local officials.

No choice but to fight

Lina Laigo, Council for the Welfare of Children executive director, said she heard some stories from some social welfare workers in war-torn areas that relatives had been unwilling to let the government take care of the orphans.

"Because they have nothing, these children have no choice but to fight because it was what their fathers also did," Laigo added.

He said it was also important to educate people in Mindanao and "bring Muslims and Christians together, away from miscommunication, biases and prejudice."

He said the ongoing conflict in the south is "taking away from the children their hope and their future."

The forum was attended by nearly a hundred people, including Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, Venerable Yung Jao of the International Buddhist Progress Society of Manila, Bishop Daniel Arichea of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines and leaders of other civic and religious groups. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Health system faces collapse

THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH SYSTEM faces collapse in two years as its doctors and nurses seek better jobs overseas, according to tne Alliance of Health Workers.

"This is indeed a serious problem but the decision of our best and well-trained medical practitioners to leave the country to look for greener pastures abroad is somewhat out of our hands," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

He was referring to reports that so many Filipino doctors and nurses were leaving the country to work overseas that some 1,000 private hospitals across the country had been forced to close since 2000.

Many Filipino doctors return to school to get a degree in nursing, because nurses are in greater demand abroad.

Bunye said in a statement that the government was looking at "options and strategies to encourage our doctors to serve at home," or to make up for the departures by getting more medical school graduates.

"Our aim is to make sure that the right of the ordinary people to public health will be constantly safeguarded," he said.

Not only is Garci back, he has written a book

From page A1

lawmaker from Mindanao said yesterday.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, a friend of Garcillano's, said the former election commissioner was in Mindanao and was putting the "finishing touches" on a book about Philippine elections.

"He is back and he is writing a book that is possibly already finished. He's just making the finishing touches," Jaraula said.

"He is going to launch it. I'm serious. He's willing to come out and is willing to tell everything," he said.

Jaraula said two "very reliable" sources—one a government official and the other a private citizen—confirmed to him that the former election commissioner slipped back into the country two weeks ago.

"Contrary to some speculations, he is alive and he is willing to come out. I got that from two very reliable sources, one of whom is an [unimpeachable] source," he said.

Title

Jaraula did not say if Garcillano was coming out with a "tell all" book about the alleged cheating in the May 2004 elections but he said he expected it to be a "best seller."

"The best title would be 'Philippine Elections and Me,'" the lawmaker said.

Garcillano had worked in the Commission on Elections (Comelec) since the 1970s. President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed him commissioner in February 2004.

He sparked the worst crisis to confront the President after he was heard in a tape recording talking with her about an alleged conspiracy to rig the poll results.

The House of Representatives issued an arrest warrant against him after he went into hiding and refused to attend the investigation of the so-called "Hello, Garci" tapes.

Jaraula said Garcillano might have used his time while hiding from the authorities to write his opus about Philippine elections.

"That gave him time for himself. In fairness to him, he's a good lawyer and he writes well," he said.

Augment income

Jaraula said Garcillano decided to write the book to augment his income after leaving government service.

"He's now in retirement and how much does a government employee get when he retires? This book will earn him millions," he said.

Jaraula said he learned from his sources that the former election commissioner would come out if his safety were guaranteed and the "Hello, Garci" tapes were played in full.

Garcillano's wife, Grace, earlier said that her husband wanted to emphasize the calls that opposition figures had also made to him during the canvassing of votes.

Confirmation of Garci's voice

Opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico (Iloilo) said that he was amenable to playing the entire tape, adding that Grace's admission that it was her husband's voice on the tape was more significant.

"That is of no moment because the fact that others, including opposition members, called up Garci during the 2004 elections is not a defense. Nor does it absolve Garci from charges of rigging the elections with the President," Suplico said.

"However, Garci's wife confirmed that indeed, it was her husband's voice on the tapes. That is more important than the threats of exposing opposition members who called up Garci at that time," he said.

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Wanted: Landscape artist for metropolis

By Tarra V. Quismundo

HOW DOES ONE TURN METRO Manila's drab landscape from grey to green?

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is looking to architects, landscape artists and nonprofessionals for the answer.

The agency is in the middle of implementing its P100-million Investor's Corridor project which aims to redevelop a 48.7-kilometer road network commonly used by visiting investors and foreigners. The project includes the clearing of sidewalks, easements, waterways and drainage systems, the repainting of unsightly structures, the installation of traffic facilities and the landscaping of center islands and other public places.

"We are soliciting ideas from others to help us determine what kind of landscaping we can do that will not be costly, and that will be efficient in terms of maintenance," MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Those who want to help the MMDA can submit their ideas to his office or to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

"They must give their ideas soon ... they should submit their proposals hopefully by the first week of December. The Metro is a concrete jungle and we need this to soften up the look of Metro Manila," said Nacianceno in a phone interview.

The proposal, he added, should be practical, affordable and sustainable.

"Of course we are looking at functionality. The plan should not be too expensive maintenance-wise but still colorful in terms of the kinds of plants they intend to use," he said.

There is no cash prize for the winning proposal but if it comes from a landscaping or architectural firm, the MMDA might hire the company to implement its design.

The agency has long been implementing greening projects along the Metro's thoroughfares, believing that the sight of flowers and shrubs amid the gray collage of buildings, highways and flyovers might give motorists and commuters something to smile about while on the road.

'No checkpoint at Pasig operation'

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE NEVER SET UP A CHECKpoint during an operation that led to an alleged shootout between 10 officers of the Traffic Management Unit and three suspected suspects on Nov. 7 in Pasig City, according to two officers involved in the operation.

In various interviews, TMG officials had maintained that the suspects had not stopped at a checkpoint when they were flagged down.

Sr. Insp. Henry Cerdon, head of the mobile team of Task Force Limbas, told an Internal Affairs Service panel that he and his men, who were on board a marked police vehicle, tailed the suspects' car as it left the parking area of a popular commercial strip on Meralco Avenue around 10 p.m.

Earlier, he said intelligence officer Sr. Insp. Hansel Marantan, leader of another team, had called him up to look for a car with Plate No. XDD-828 that could be used in the carjacking. Cerdon said he spotted the car parked near a coffee shop in the strip. Marantan's team was in another car, an unmarked vehicle. Cerdon said he knew little about who were inside the suspects' car, and only had its plate number to work on. All the time his team chased the suspects from Meralco Avenue up to Garnet Street, he said could not see who were inside since the windows were heavily tinted.

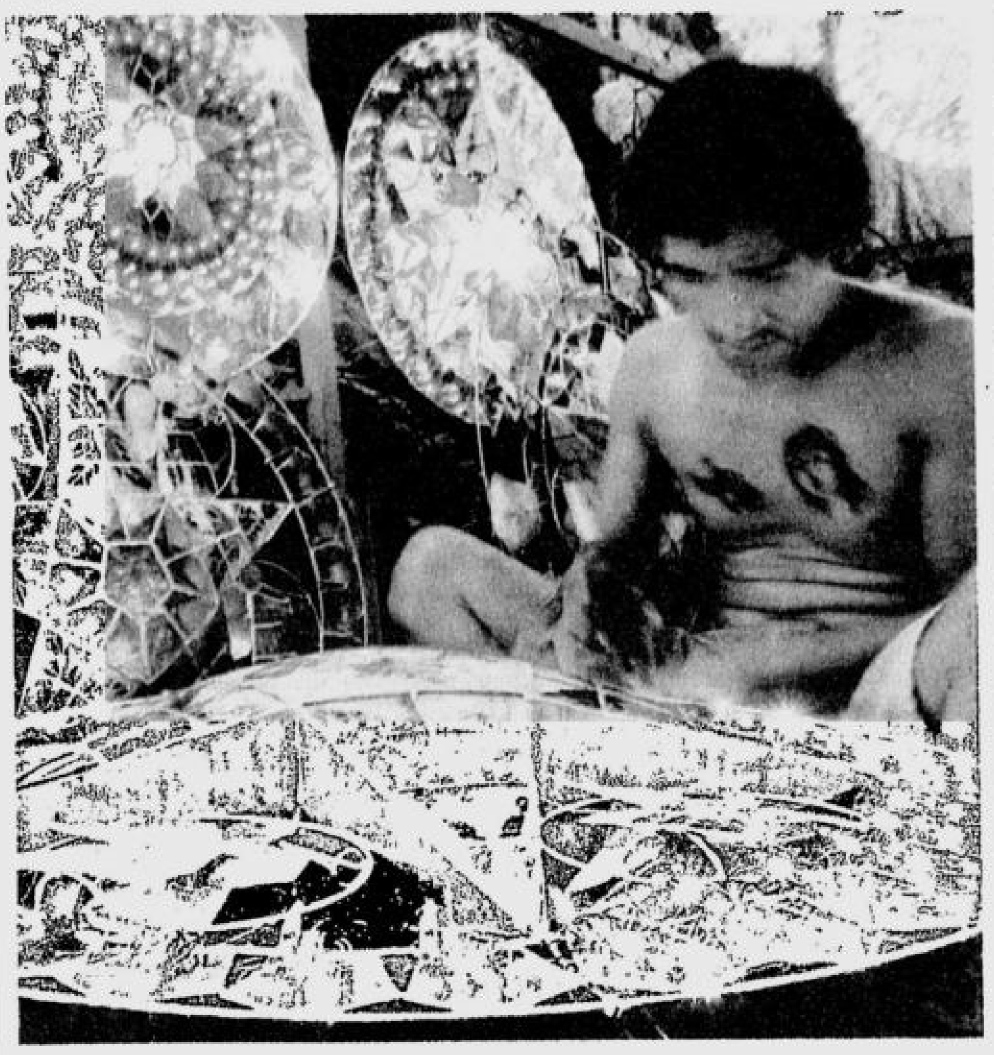
Cerdon said his team was also not told whether or not the suspects were armed. Marantan's group had received word from an informant that the suspects carried firearms and a grenade. The suspects' car made a U-turn on Meralco Avenue corner Ortigas Avenue, a violation of a traffic rule. Cerdon said he tried to flag it down twice. The second time around, Cerdon said he got out of the marked vehicle which he said "sped away and almost hit me."

At this point another car, an unmarked police vehicle manned by Marantan, Sr. Insp. Samson Belmonte, and three other officers, gave chase. They caught up with the suspects in front of the AIC Gold building on Garnet Street.

Belmonte, the second officer called to testify, corroborated Cerdon's testimony about the sequence of events leading to the alleged shootout. He said he could see the three suspects sipping coffee during the stakeout. There was a bulge at the waist of one of the suspects, but Belmonte said he wasn't sure whether it was a gun or not. When they cut the suspects' car, Belmonte, who was wounded in the firefight, said the suspect or one of the suspects did not bother to open a window or door, firing from the inside.

The two teams led by Cerdon and Marantan did not appear to have entered the operation in the dispatch book, a standard procedure according to the panel composed of Sr. Supt. Joselito Casugbo, Neofito Perilla, and Elvis Talan. Belmonte and Cerdon said they radioed headquarters about the operation.

But a dispatch book provided by Task Force Limbas said the last entry on Nov. 7 was around 6:15 p.m. Panel members quoted the logbook as saying Marantan's team was going to conduct surveillance operations in the area. Belmonte said his team left headquarters around 9:30 p.m., even when the dispatch log said they left at 6:15 p.m.



THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS
A worker puts finishing touches on holiday lanterns and decor for sale along Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. EDWIN BACASMAS

Makati bags int'l robotics award

ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT GET THE TOP prize, a team of high school seniors from the Philippines won a special award for their entry about a futuristic floating city populated by robots in an international science fair, besting entries from 13 other countries.

Team MS IMAGINe, from the Makati Science High School, received the Best Presentation Award during the 2nd World Robotics Olympiad held in Bangkok, Thailand from Nov. 4 to 6 for their excellent presentation to an international audience of what their project was about.

"We outranked other countries in terms of content, and for us, that is very important. The other countries in the competition were among the world's richest countries, and at least even just this time, we outranked them, and our project was more convincing than theirs," said Kathy Javier, the team's coach.

The winning team was composed of fourth year students Cyril Lumboy, Siegfrid Mendoza and Glenn Angelo Galano.

In the competition, the students were asked to present their vision of the Earth a billion years from now. Their winning entry, titled "World of IMAGINe," featured a floating city, running on electronic circuitry and populated by robots, all fashioned out from Lego blocks.

"We imagined that the world by that time would have extreme temperatures ... all volcanoes have erupted and in that setting, robots would be dominant," said Javier, a physics teacher. "The teams were given five minutes to explain their projects. And we Filipinos are really good in English so that's the edge that we had from the others. They said the world stopped when we explained."

Team MS IMAGINe bested 121 other teams from 13 participating countries, including four from the Philippines and neighboring countries like Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Singapore, Taiwan, Korea, China, Japan, Russia and Australia. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

METROBRIEFS

Waterless Christmas

RESIDENTS of 16 barangays in Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City will have to endure another waterless Christmas this year. Carrying empty pails, they staged a rally yesterday in front of the Maynilad Water Services Inc. office in the city to demand that they be given clean water, "especially on Christmas day." Jaime Bartolome, MWSI technical manager for south Caloocan, said the company is aware of the residents' complaint but factors such as lack of funds, increased population and unchanged water supply prevent them from addressing it. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

SUMULAT AKO KAY SANTA KLAWS NA BIGYAN TAYO NG TUBIG !

Cop gets death

A POLICEMAN was meted out the death penalty for shooting his live-in partner dead inside a police community precinct three years ago. Mandaluyong City Regional Trial Court Branch 211 Judge Paulita Acosta-Villarante also ordered SPO4 Pedro Ilao of the Traffic Management Group to pay the victim's family more than P179,000 in damages. Based on court records, Ilao shot dead his live-in partner Helen De Castro while they were arguing inside a police community precinct in Barangay Namayan, Mandaluyong City on Nov. 20, 2002. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

New carjack victims

CARJACKERS struck anew in Quezon City the other night, taking a businessman's sports utility vehicle and even shooting him in the leg. Edison Tiu, 36, and his wife were about to park their Nissan X-Trail on Banawe St. at around 8:30 p.m. when two men approached them and at gunpoint, demanded the keys to the vehicle. Tiu told the La Loma police he was about to give the keys when one of the suspects apparently got impatient and shot him. The suspects then boarded the vehicle and sped off. The victim was rushed to the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital for treatment and was later transferred to St. Luke's Hospital. *DJ Yap*

IBIGAY MO NA ANG SUSI NG KOTSE MO ! Dalia !!

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Yule card-making contest for children

THE SHOWSTOPPERS Center for Music and Art, in celebration of the Yuletide season, is holding an on-the-spot Christmas card-making contest, "Ang Aking Pamaskong Handog," on Nov. 27. The art contest is open to all elementary students in Metro Manila, ages 9 to 12, and enrolled for the current academic year. Participants may register by phone or in person at the Showstoppers Center at Suite 3 Creekside, Delta Bldg., 2 West Ave., cor. Quezon Ave., Bgy. West Triangle, Quezon City or call 376-3432. Registration is from 8 to 10 a.m. Winners will be awarded cash prizes, trophies and visual arts scholarships . The Showstoppers Center for Music and Arts, founded by Dr. Zonia Elvas Velasco, offers lessons in voice, piano, guitar and violin, as well as drama, modeling, painting, martial arts, ballroom dancing and public speaking. For particulars, call 376-3432, telefax 413-5852 or email showstoppers.mla@gmail.com.

Palo encounter a terrible mistake?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE SOLDIERS MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE in killing seven farmers, two of them women, in Palo, Leyte. Apparently getting a wrong tip from an informant, they fired away without first checking.

The farmers were unarmed. The weapons and hand-held radios supposedly taken from the dead farmers were not theirs.

Although they were left-leaning, the farmers were not doing anything illegal. They were holding a meeting to discuss the land awarded to them by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

I gathered this information from my sources in Tacloban City, a few kilometers from Palo.

In short, what happened in Palo Monday was not an encounter but a massacre.

If the Armed Forces sides with the soldiers involved in the massacre, it would alienate the whole province of Leyte which is not sympathetic to the New People's Army (NPA).

Many parts of Samar island, separated from Leyte only by the San Bernardino Strait, are already sympathetic to the rebels.

If the investigation is not handled correctly, many Leyteños may become NPA sympathizers.

* * *

From the point of view of a veteran police reporter (myself), here are things the investigators should consider:

1. Why would the NPAs hold a meeting—armed at that—in Palo where the police regional headquarters is located?
2. The NPAs no longer carry home-made shotguns (*paltik*) and revolvers since these are "ineffective" weapons in long-range fighting. Communist rebels carry high-powered guns they confiscated from soldiers they ambushed.
3. The *paltik* supposedly recovered from the scene of encounter by government troops: Most policemen who shoot dead, unarmed criminals use *paltik* for "planting" beside the dead bodies.

* * *

During the unlamented martial law era, Constabulary or Army troopers who killed innocent civilians during drunken quarrels were defended by their superiors.

Their superiors reported to higher headquarters that the civilians were NPAs.

The result was that many civilians, whose relatives were victims of military and police abuses, either joined the NPAs or became their sympathizers.

That was the reason for the big number of NPA members and sympathizers during the Marcos years.

Those years are being replicated by military abuses such as what happened in Palo.

* * *

Supt. Jerry Valeroso, chief of the Anti-Illegal Drugs and Special Operations Task Force of the National Capital Region (whew!), is again the subject of a complaint from some citizens.

Two weeks ago, Valeroso was featured in this space for covering up for his subordinate who allegedly "planted" drugs on two young men in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

He had my reporter and cameraman from "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" detained for supposedly interfering in a police function. My staff was there to check on the frame-up complaint.

Yesterday, two brothers, Lindi and Abdullah Amer, came to my office to complain against Valeroso. The Amers said they were arrested in Dasmariñas, Cavite (it seems Dasmariñas is the favorite hunting ground of Valeroso's men) for drug pushing.

They were taken to Valeroso's office in Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig, where the colonel allegedly demanded P1.5 million for their release. Lindi Amer said his wife was able to raise only P500,000 from relatives and friends. The money was offered to Valeroso.

The police colonel allegedly accepted the amount but asked that the couple turn over their Toyota Revo to him. They were forced to sign a deed of sale in favor of Valeroso. When will his superiors stop coddling Valeroso?

MAKING FRIENDS
Muntinlupa City Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi (center) with Takasaki City (Japan) Mayor Yukio Matsuura (4th from left) and Gunma-machi Mayor Yoshiro Nomura (2nd from right) at talks between the three cities for a new sister-city agreement. With them are (from left) Muntinlupa City administrator Henry A. Reyes, Councilors Allan Camilon and Dr. Luisa Babaran-Echavez, the majority floor leader of Takasaki City and Muntinlupa Councilor Raul Corro.

Panawagan sa Korte Suprema at kay PGMA

HUWAG IKOMPROMISO ANG COCONUT LEVY, ITAGUYOD ANG INTERES NG MGA MALILIIT NA MAGNINIYOG!

May 30 taon na po ang nakalipas subalit hanggang ngayon ay naghihintay pa rin kami, ang 20 milyong maliliit na magniniyog, manggagawa sa niyugan, at aming mga pamilya, upang mapakinabangan ang pondong coconut levy. Matagal na kaming nalulugmok sa matinding kahirapan—halos P20,000 lang ang aming taunang kita na pinagkakasya para sa aming mga pamilya. Ang pinakamahirap sa amin ay tumatanggap lang ng P10,000 bawat taon. Sa 79 probinsya sa Pilipinas, 68 ang nakasalalay sa niyog, subalit karamihan sa mga probinsyang ito ay dumaranas ng matinding kahirapan. Hindi lamang pagpapaunlad ng industriya ng niyog ang inaasahang magiging resulta ng pagpapalaya at paggamit ng pondong coconut levy, kundi'y upang makaahon rin kami mula sa kahirapan.

Hindi na dapat kami pinag-aantay pa. Malinaw sa amin na ayon sa pinal na hatol ng Korte Suprema noong 14 Disyembre 2001, ang pondong coco levy ay pampublikong pondo. At sang-ayon rin sa pinal na hatol ng Sandiganbayan noong 28 Disyembre 2004, ang UCPB, ang CIIF companies, ang 14 Holding Companies, at ang CIIF-SMC 27% shares ay "*owned by the government in trust for all the coconut farmers.*" Wala nang dahilan upang ikompromiso pa ang coco levy.

Pinaaalalahanan namin si Pangulong Gloria-Macapagal Arroyo na huwag gamitin at ikompromiso ang pondong coco levy upang iligtas sa krisis pampulitika ang kasalukuyang administrasyon.

Mahigpit na tagubilin ni PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac na di dapat ikompromiso ang pondong coco levy at laging unahin ang interes ng mga maliliit na magniniyog. Inaasahan naming tutuparin ng kasalukuyang pamunuan ng PCGG at ng Malacañang ang tagubiling ito. Bukod dito, dapat lalo pang pabilisin ng pamahalaan ang lubusang pagbawi ng coco levy at talikuran ang pakikipag-kompromiso kina Danding Cojuangco at sa COCOFED tungkol sa cocolevy fund.

Hinihiling namin na agarang desisyunan ng Sandiganbayan ang nakabinbing Motion for Execution ukol sa 27 porsyentong CIIF-SMC shares. Tinatawagan din namin ang Korte Suprema na desisyunan ang nalalabing 20 porsyento sa SMC na binili gamit ang pondong coconut levy.

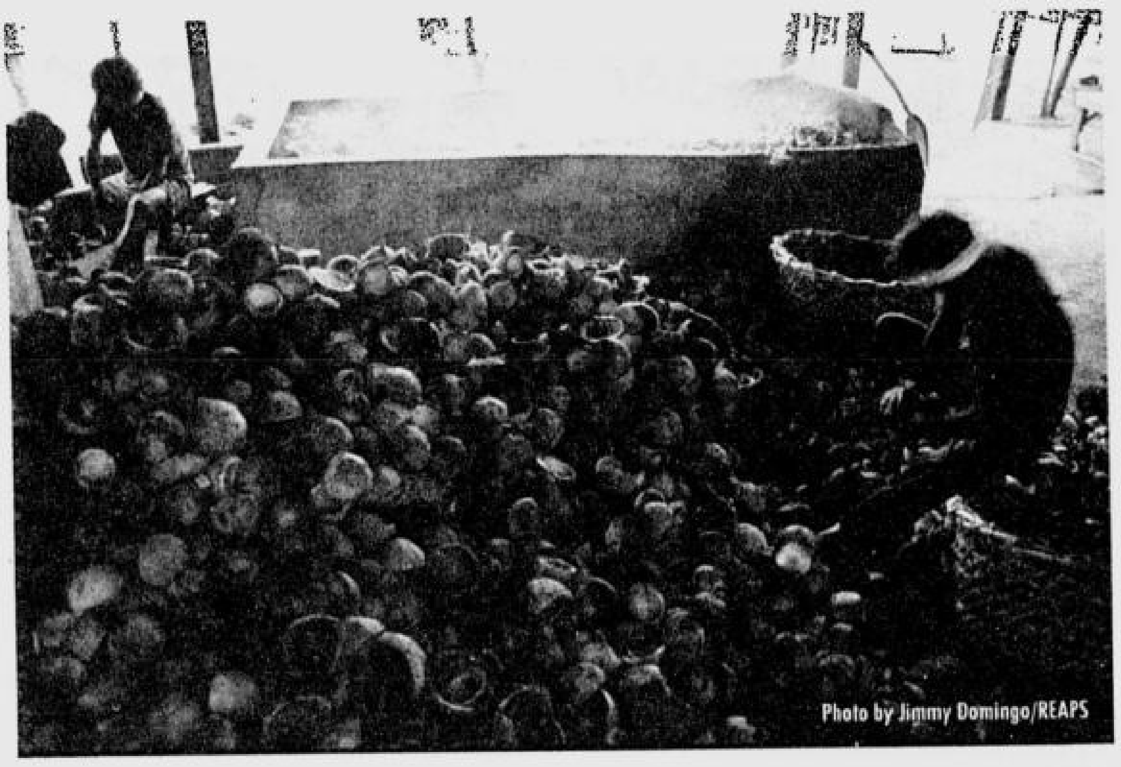


Photo by Jimmy Domingo/REAPS

Wigberto E. Tañada, Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) • Oscar "Ka Oca" F. Santos, Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR) • Vicente Fabe, Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) • Romeo Royandoyan, Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI) • Joey T. Faustino, Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR) • **MINDANAO:** Alyansa ng mga Maglulubi sa Mindanaw (AM-Mindanaw) • Mindanaw Rural Congress (MRC) • Monkayo Kristohanong Pagtinabangay sa Mag-uuma sa Davao (KPMD) • Malabog Integrated Enterprise Development Cooperative (MIEDECO) • Nagkahiusang Mangingisda ug Mag-uuma sa Tantanang Bay (NAGMATABA) • Samahang Magsasaka sa Timug Kotabato (SAMATIKU) • Zamboanga del Norte Federation of Self-Help Societies, Inc. 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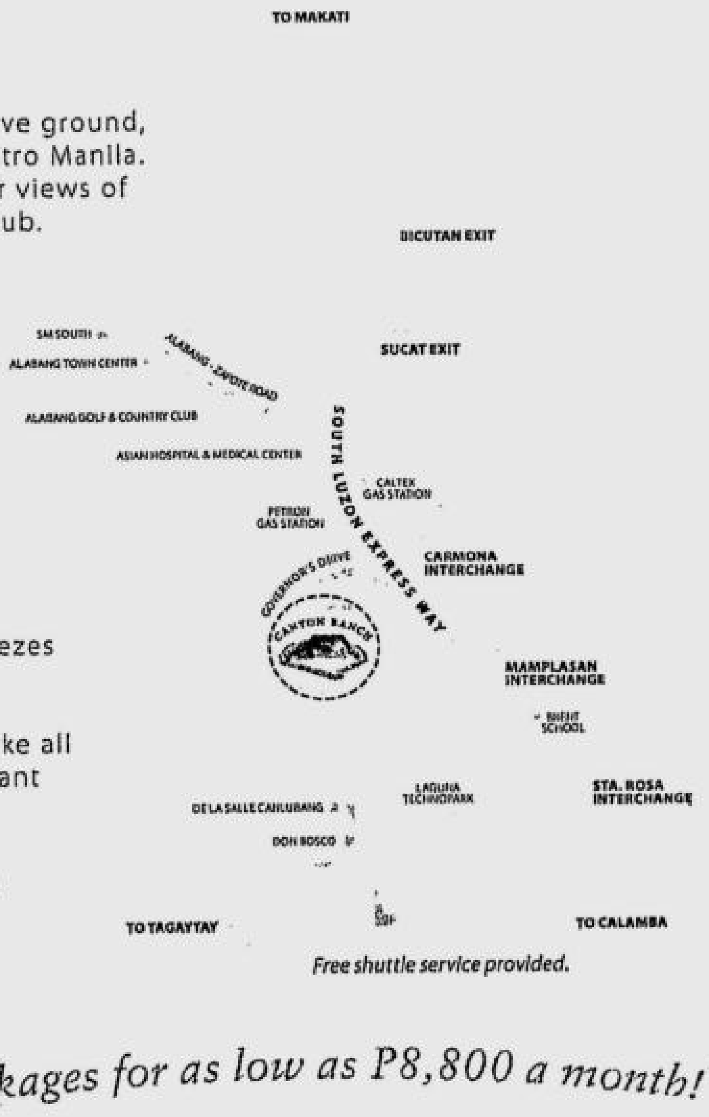
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Brave RP booters bow to Thais

GAMES TODAY (*Bacolod City Sports Complex*)
4 p.m.—Indonesia vs Singapore
6:30 p.m.—Vietnam vs Myanmar

By Cedelf Tupas
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—IT WAS A DEfeat that didn't put a dent in the Philippine team's morale.

The retooled Philippine men's football team came out fighting before yielding to powerhouse Thailand, 1-0, in its debut in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games before a huge audience at the Panaad Stadium last night.

Cheered on by a partisan crowd of 15,000 fans, most of them wearing blue shirts, the Filipinos forced the Thais to toil for the victory. And even when the sport's regional heavyweights got the triumph, its coach could not help but marvel at the improvement of the Philippine squad.

"The Philippines played very very good game," said Chanvit Phalajivin. "It could have gone either way but a win is a win no matter what the [score reads]."

Showing brilliant teamwork inside the box, the Thais scored the crucial point as 22-year-old midfielder Jakkrit Bunkham beat RP keeper Michael Casas, striking the winner in the 36th minute—12 yards out from the center off a pass from Suchao Nutnum.

"It was just poor discipline and lack of concentration on defense that allowed the winning goal," said RP coach Aris Caslib, whose team needs to sweep its remaining two matches to gain a semis berth in the nine-team tourney.

The Thais also drew a superb performance from goalkeeper Naril Taweekul, who made two crucial saves in the Filipinos' last-ditch effort to tie the match.

Taweekul survived an RP onslaught in the 76th minute, making fingertip saves on the headers made by defenders Ali Borromeo and Mark Villon off corners.

The RP booters, boosted by the arrival of foreign-born players, faces Cambodia on Friday at 4:30 p.m.

The Philippines actually had the first scoring chance of the match in the fourth minute, but Chad Gould's one-touch header from a James Younghusband free kick sailed inches over the bar.

With the Filipinos getting more defensive-minded, the Thais attacked without let-up from there and came close two minutes later as Nutnum eluded two defenders only to see his left-foot strike hit the bar. They had four more scoring chances in the first half and their continued pressure bore fruit in the form of Bunkham's goal.

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Pagulayan's new target: SEAG gold

FILIPINO-CANADIAN ALEX PAGULAYAN HAS won numerous titles, including the 2004 World Pool Championship and this year's US Open, but he feels something is still lacking from his achievements in billiards.

The 27-year-old native of Cabagan, Isabela, has yet to snare a Southeast Asian Games gold.

"I've added on my list of goals the gold medals in the SEA Games," said the 5-foot-3 Pagulayan, who's been tasked to spearhead the Philippine campaign sans world pool icons Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante.

Pagulayan will be seeing action in the snooker doubles, snooker team, 8-ball pool singles, 9-ball singles and 9-ball doubles.

He will team up with Joven Alba in the snooker doubles and with Alba, veteran Leonardo "Dodong Dadiangas" Andam and Felipe Tauro Jr. in the team competition.

Dennis "Surigao" Orcollo will be Pagulayan's partner in the 9-ball doubles.

Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, godfather of RP billiards, is optimistic that the Filipinos will dominate the event to be held at the Makati Coliseum from Nov. 27-Dec. 4.

"Our players have been performing well in local and international events," said Puyat. "I am confident that we can win many gold medals."

Marlon Bernadino, Contributor

Boxers eye crown

BACOLOD CITY—READY TO RUMBLE.

Philippine boxing team coach Pat Gaspi said this yesterday, five days before the RP pugs plunge into action at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum here.

"The boxers are in peak form, they are ready for battle," Gaspi said in Filipino.

The Philippines, which grabbed a single gold in 2003 courtesy of Harry Tañamor, is hoping to win the overall title, a feat it last achieved in Manila 14 years ago.

Expected to turn things around for the RP Team are seven Negrense pugilists—Joan Tipon (bantamweight), Reynaldo Galido (light middle), Juanito Magliquian (minimum), Joegin Ladon, Warlito Parrenas (fly), Mark Jason Melliguen (welter) and female boxer Mitchel Martinez (light) who will be fighting in an international event for the first time in their province.

Cedelf Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau

TORCH RELAY: Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority officials led by chair Feliciano G. Salonga (third from right) and Administrator Armand C. Arreza (extreme right) along with Zambales Gov. Vicente Magsaysay and Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon join Jasmin Figueroa as she holds the symbolic SEA Games Torch that will light the urn at the Remy Field during the Torch Relay ceremony in Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Subic Bay is the site of competitions in archery, triathlon, canoe/kayaking and sailing.

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Thomas keeps cool as Tigers end Express run

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena, Laoag City*)
4:45 p.m.—All-Star Side Events
6:45 p.m.—Rookies vs Sophomores Game

By June Navarro

IN HIS CHILDHOOD DAYS, OMAR THOMAS was someone who could easily lose control of his temper. This time, he kept his cool despite a rough and aggressive stance by Ronald Tubid.

And Coca-Cola benefited greatly from it, watching Thomas explode for 39 points to lead the Tigers to a 115-106 dismantling of the Air21 Express last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Sent to a 90-day boot camp for several misdeeds in high school, Thomas received countless bumps and bruises from Tubid in their second-half matchup. But the University of Texas-El Paso alum remained passive throughout.

Rafi Reavis, on his fifth game after being suspended for months, also sparkled with 14 points and 19 rebounds while Ali Peek, who added 10 points, helped contain Shawn Daniels to help key the Tigers' third straight victory.

"I experienced defending bigger imports than him (Daniels)," said Peek after the Tigers notched their fifth win in 11 games.

Daniels, weighing almost 250 pounds with his 6-foot-6 frame, still got away with 20 points and 12 rebounds for the Express but his efforts didn't matter much in the closing minutes.

The Tigers also laid to waste the heroics of Renren Ritualo, who went eight of 17 from three-point range and finished with 31 markers. Coach Bo Perasol and the Express saw their three-game win snap and fell to 6-6.

San Miguel Beer downed Alaska, 66-62, in the second game to snap a four-game losing streak and raise its record to 2-8. Alaska tasted its fifth straight loss and dropped to 5-7.

The scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 115—Thomas 39, Mamaril 16, Reavis 14, Singson 13, Peek 10, Antonio 10, Arigo 9, Juinio 2 Francisco 2, Morano 0.

AIR21 106—Ritualo 31, Daniels 20, Arboleda 13, Tubid 10, David 10, R. De Ocampo 8, Y. De Ocampo 6, Canaleta 5, Ferriols 2, Fran 2, Dacia 0, Se 0.

Quarters: 29-29, 65-57, 87-89, 115-106.

CECIL Mamiit works out for the first time with the RP team. RYAN LIM

Inspired Mamiit promises gold

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre Sports Editor

THERE WAS NO TIME FOR rest for world-ranked tennis player Cecil Mamiit. Not after making a bold promise to the country.

"I can guarantee at least one gold," Mamiit declared.

And with that vow, he immediately plunged to work, shrugging off the effects of a lack of sleep and taking on Philippine No. 1 Patrick John Tierro in a practice game before a small but appreciative crowd at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The 207th-ranked Mamiit will spearhead the country's tennis squad in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games and admits that playing before a partisan home crowd brings about a different kind of thrill.

"It's a different feeling coming here," said the 29-year-old Mamiit. "There's a lot of energy and motivation to perform well knowing that the crowd will be behind you. I'm pretty excited.

"I'm proud to be a Filipino."

A veteran of Grand Slam events since 1999, Mamiit and fellow Fil-Am Eric Taino will play men's singles, doubles and mixed doubles as the Philippines tries to collar the overall title against tough challengers, including Thailand, which is bannered by world-class Danai Udomchoke.

Mamiit also cited Indonesia as a threat with Suwandi Suwandi and Prima Simpatiaji at the helm.

Taino, ranked 213th in the world, was set to arrive last night.

Mamiit and Taino have already shown what they can do for the country. The pair won the men's doubles in the ATP-sanctioned Vietnam Open recently.

Despite signs of fatigue, Mamiit feels that the competition format will work to his favor.

"There are a lot of matches to be played," said Mamiit. "I'm certain to get better as the days wear on. This is a different setting. I think I'm going to have fun."

After nine years in the ATP Tour, Mamiit's career earnings have reached about $900,000 (more than P53 million). *With a report from Apolinario Mapacpac, contributor*

Pinoys s

MATCHES TODAY (*Trace Aquatics Center*)
4 p.m.—Indonesia vs Thailand
5:15 p.m.—Philippines vs Vietnam
6:30 p.m.—Singapore vs Thailand

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—DISPLAYING UNSINKABLE FIGHTING spirit, the Philippine water polo team drowned Thailand with a flurry of early goals to prevail, 10-2, last night and remain hopeful of a goal medal miracle in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Trace Aquatics Center here.

Needing to win all their remaining matches after narrowly losing to superpower Singapore, 6-7, the other day, the Filipinos attacked the opposition without letup behind Monsuito Pelenio and Roy Cañete who unloaded six goals between them.

The Thais, silver medalists during the 2003 Vietnam SEAG, scored their first goal only late in the third period when Philippine victory was certain.

"We humbled the SEAG silver medalists with sharp passing and bombed the Thai goalie with never-before-seen shots," said Philippine Amateur Swimming Association president Mark Joseph.

Title-favorite Singapore streaked to its third straight win with a 16-7 rout of winless Indonesia. The Singaporeans thus firmed up their title bid in the single-round tournament.

A victory against Thailand today will ensure Singapore the gold medal and relegate the Philippines to the silver medal race. The Filipinos take on Vietnam today, hoping to score their third win.

Team Philippines took a 4-0 halftime lead through the goals of Pelenio, Cañete, Michael Jorolan and Norton Alamara.

At the other end of the pool, goalie Allan Payawal gallantly foiled charge after charge as the Thais remained goal-less halfway through the third quarter.

Cañete topscored with five goals. Also scoring for the Philippines was Almax Laurel.

The Thais fell to 1-2.

In the opener, Malaysia posted its second win with an 8-7 triumph over Vietnam. The Malaysians improved their card to 2-1, while handing the Vietnamese their second loss in three games.

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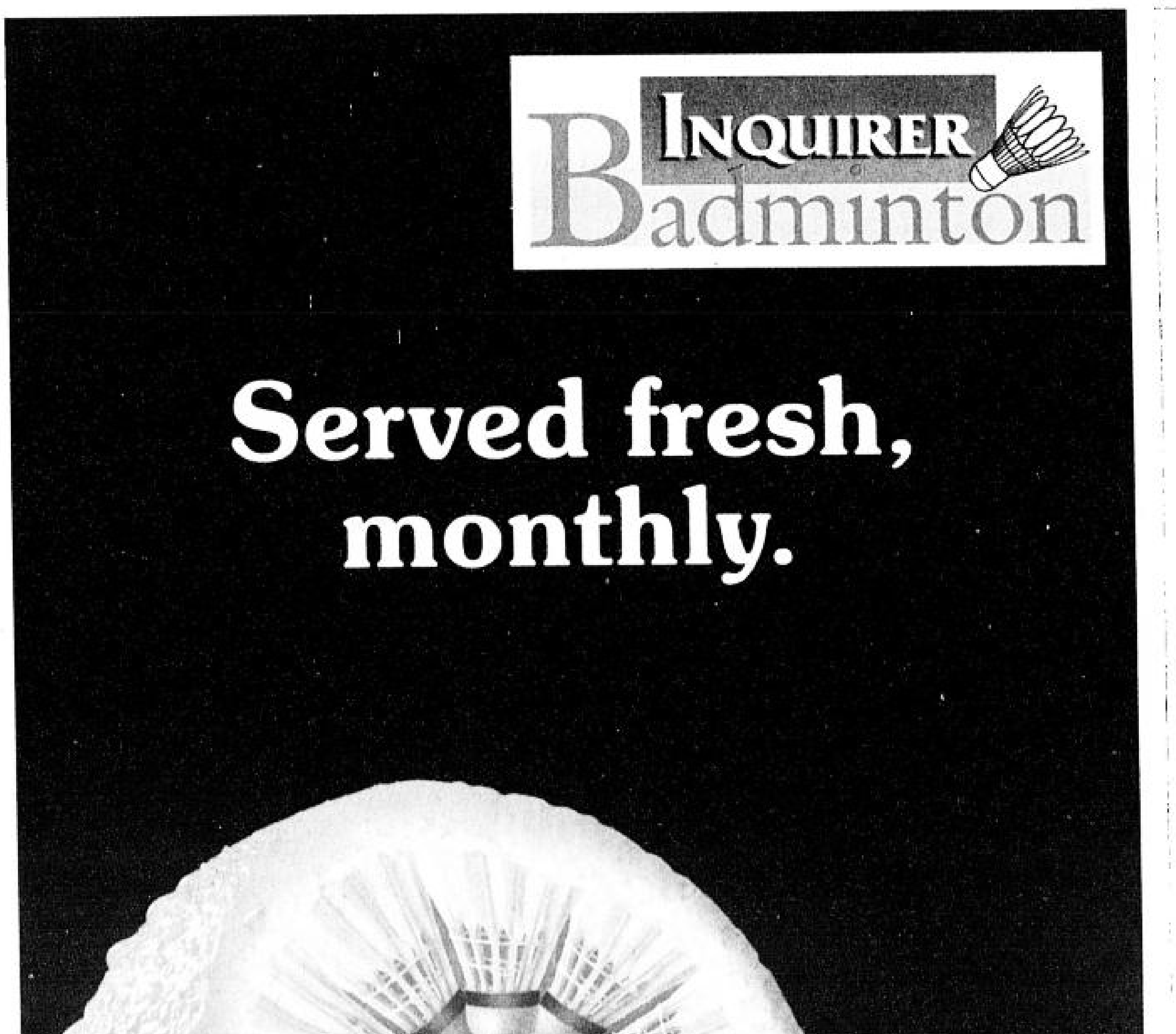

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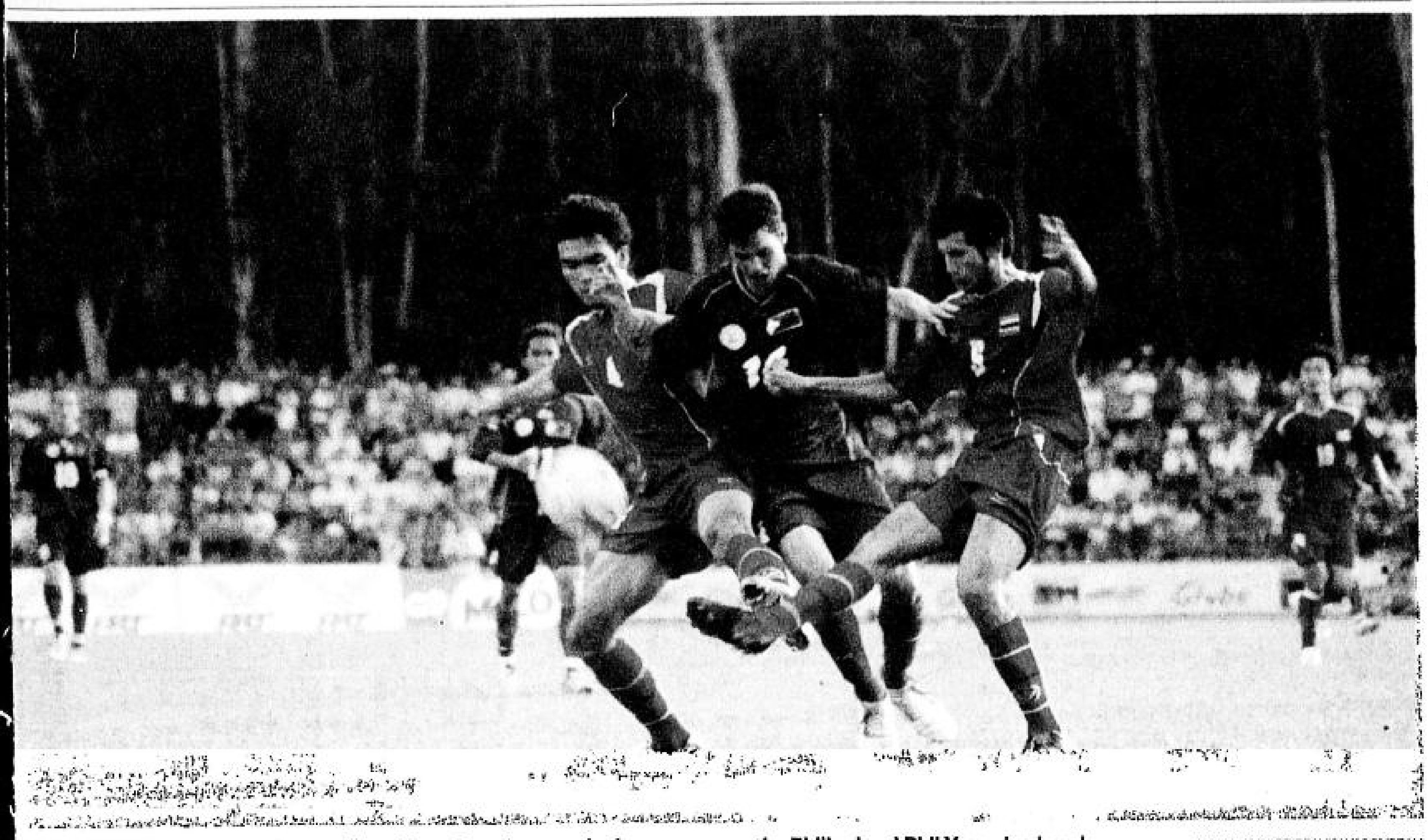

HAILAND'S Kiatprawul Saiwaeo (4) and Prat Samakrat apply the squeeze on the Philippines' Phil Younghusband. ANDY ALVAREZ/PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

RP lawn bowls, petanque teams out to impress

ANGELES CITY—The Philippine teams in the Southeast Asian Games' lawn bowls and petanque competitions are confident of earning its rightful share of the 12 gold medals at stake in their sports.

Team captain Ronalyn Greenlees said that while the Philippine team expects stiff competition from Malaysia and Brunei, she believes that the Filipinos have a good chance at dominating the events.

RP team captain Ronalyn Greenlees (right) discusses strategy with team members.

"We have been doing well in the past two years, bringing home golds and silvers in various Asian tournaments," Greenlees said. "We have been improving our technique with constant practice, so now our morale is very high."

Lawn bowls is a sport that traces its roots to 13th-century England. It is played by two opposing teams, each trying to roll their "bowls" as close as possible to a smaller ball or "jack" over a grass surface. Petanque, on the other hand, is a French version of the game, but with smaller metal balls and played over gravel.

The two Philippine teams also hold a home court advantage because they have been practicing at the Hidden Vale Sports Club in Hensonville, Angeles City, which is also venue for the SEAG lawn bowls and petanque competitions slated Nov. 29 to Dec. 5.

Just off the Clark Economic Zone, Hidden Vale Sports Club is the only major lawn bowls and petanque facility in the country and has even improved its facilities to meet international competition standards.

Nat'l lady booters tackle Thais today

HE HIGHLY REGARDED PHILIP-ine women's football squad shows s wares today when it debuts gainst Thailand at the Marikina ports Park in Marikina City.

The Filipinos, fresh off an intense ven-month training, and the unpre-ictable Thais collide at 6:30 p.m.

RP head coach Marlon Maro, a ember of the men's squad that finhed fourth in the 1991 Manila SEAG, ill guide a women's side loaded with perience and youthful potential.

A believer in the Italian style of play, Maro believes his solid defense, anchored on Merle Acibar and Letecia Bautista, will hold, allowing his forwards to get really mobile on offense.

Thailand and Myanmar lead the tourney with 3 points apiece after their first-day wins against Indonesia and Vietnam, respectively. A win tonight will move the Thais nearer to a medal.

Philippine Football Federation head Johnny Romualdez and Marikina Mayor Marides C. Fernando are enjoining football fans and Marikeños to wear red or white shirts today as a sign of support for the Nationals.

The RP women will be in their red and white uniforms for today's match.

Romualdez said that a Football Caravan, like the one in Bacolod yesterday, is being organized in Metro Manila to boost the morale of the squad.

The Football Caravan will escort the Nationals from their Discovery Suites hotel at the Ortigas Center to the stadium beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Girl-footballers from Metro Manila schools, plus those who play in tournaments of the Rizal Football Association and the Metro Manila Girls Football Association are expected to cheer for their compatriots.

Bautista, Acibar, Andrea Yang, Marielle Benitez, Clarisse Lazaro and goalkeeper Levis Camarillo are expected to hold the squad together tonight. Fil-Ams Miko Alley and the Impelido sisters, Angeline and Patrice, will spearhead the offense. *Roy Luarca*

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

WATER POLO (*Trace Aquatics Center, Los Baños*)
4 p.m.—Indonesia vs Thailand
5:15 p.m.—Philippines vs Vietnam
6:30 p.m.—Singapore vs Thailand
MEN'S FOOTBALL (*Paglaum, Bacolod City*)
4 p.m.—Singapore vs Indonesia
6:30 p.m.—Myanmar vs Vietnam
WOMEN'S FOOTBALL (*Marikina Sports Park*)
4 p.m.—Indonesia vs Myanmar
6:30 p.m.—Philippines vs Thailand

Home court advantage

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IS PROBABLY ONLY IN GOLF THAT HOME ourt advantage exists. The reason is simple: There e no two courses that are alike. Meaning, all cours- have different characters, sizes and shapes.

Thus, one playing his home golf course that is beg used in a tournament has the advantage. It is lled course familiarity. One not used to playing a urse is almost playing blind.

But you can't say the same in other sports like sketball, tennis or football.

The battlefields in basketball, tennis and footll have the same sizes and shapes.

The basketball goal has the same circumferce anywhere in the world.

The tennis net has the same height anywhere the world.

The football field has the same length and idth anywhere in the world.

In golf, it's different. Every course has a differt terrain, size and undulation.

I've said all of the above before but I'm saying again if only to refresh the memory of our offils.

One recycled official now holding a key posion in our sports hierarchy has criticized the sysm that he belongs to a while back by saying we e losing home court advantage because of the lay in the renovation of venues.

Of course, that's baloney.

As I said, except golf, home court advantage is myth.

If there's advantage gained by any athlete in y sport, it is, that he plays well at all times, that 's determined to win all the time.

OK, cycling, the road race particularly, is alost similar to golf.

In this event, there are no two routes that are e same. Thus, the foreign cyclists must know e terrain before they go to battle.

Common sense, fellas, common sense!

You don't know the way to San Jose, how can u go to San Jose, much less plan a trip to San se? .

I find it funny, therefore, that one Filipino cyng official was criticizing his fellow Filipino cyng official for bringing members of a foreign am to the route to be used in the SEA Games cycling road race.

That complaining official should be sanctioned for unsportsmanlike behavior.

It is the hosts' sworn duty to inform, show if need be, our protagonists the course where the cycling competition is to be held.

In golf, all foreign participants are given time to practice on the course. In fact, through DHL/www.express mogul Rod Feliciano, the Singapore national women's golf team has been practicing for months now at the venue where our golf competitions are to be held.

I saw the Singapore women's team practicing at The Country Club on Tuesday (Nov. 22) when general manager Mike Carr allowed Jake P. Ayson and me to delineate the course for the SEA Games golf on Dec. 1-4.

Mind you, even before the golf venue for women's play was transferred from Manila Golf to The Country Club, Rod Feliciano, that straight-talking no-nonsense NGAP chair, has been graciously assisting the Singaporeans in doing their practice chores here.

You call that unpatriotic?

Tell that to Tito Rod and you'll probably get this retort from him: "You can go to hell."

It's very elementary, my dear. Home court advantage is only in the mind.

* * *

FASTBREAK. As I keep saying, late is never late. My gratitude once again to Mr. Wo Rosete of Smart/Talk 'N Text for all the communication help he has extended me the past weeks. Manny V. Pangilinan should be proud of having an executive in his fold that is as diligent and efficient as Mr. Rosete. Cheers!

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

IHDP shuttlers bag junior title

CELO H. DEL PILAR FASHIONED OUT A 2-0 VIC- over Poveda to capture the girls' title in the high ol division, even as Arellano retained the boys' n by repulsing Ateneo at the close of the JVC Interlastic Badminton Championships yesterday.

ckielyn Cudia outsteadied Carla Lizardo in the deg set of the opening singles en route to a 11-9, 10- 1-8 triumph before the tandem of Jaevena Susbilla Malou Gaspar clinched the tie for the Malolos, Bun-based shuttlers with a big 15-3, 15-6 win over Fa dela Cruz and Patricia Tolentino in the doubles be a big Wednesday crowd at the Glorietta.

he MHDP squad lost to Poveda in the finals of the badminton invitationals early this year.

rellano, on the other hand, fought back from a first les loss to win the doubles and the other singles to back Ateneo, 2-1, and rule the boys side.

Babad and Anjo Bautista defeated Nicco Supangnd James Roman, 15-9, 17-16, while Andrei Babad prevailed over Rafael Sanchez , 15-9, 15-7, to complete Arellano's comeback from Ian Bautista's 2-15, 1-15 loss to Toby Gabi in the first singles.

Marcelo H. Del Pilar and Arellano took home P20,000 each plus medals, JVC items and gift packs. Poveda and Ateneo settled for P12,000 prizes.

135 fights today in 'Bakbakan'

THE 2005 BAKBAKAN 9-STAG DERBY, A GATHERING among 856 of the top gamefowl breeders all over the country, resumes with 135 fights at 11 a.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum. Four entries posted perfect scores of six wins last Monday and Tuesday—Joseph Reyes (Earthlink Gavin Enzo), Al Garcia and Ricoy Palmares (D and B Algar MB), Antiong Brothers (Dat Cegba) and Jun Yap (Jamigen Artianica). Meanwhile, the NFGB execom has announced that participants who scored 4 and 4.5 points in the semifinals held last Tuesday and today will vie on Sunday at San Juan Coliseum. For inquiries, call 911-3101 or 911-2928.

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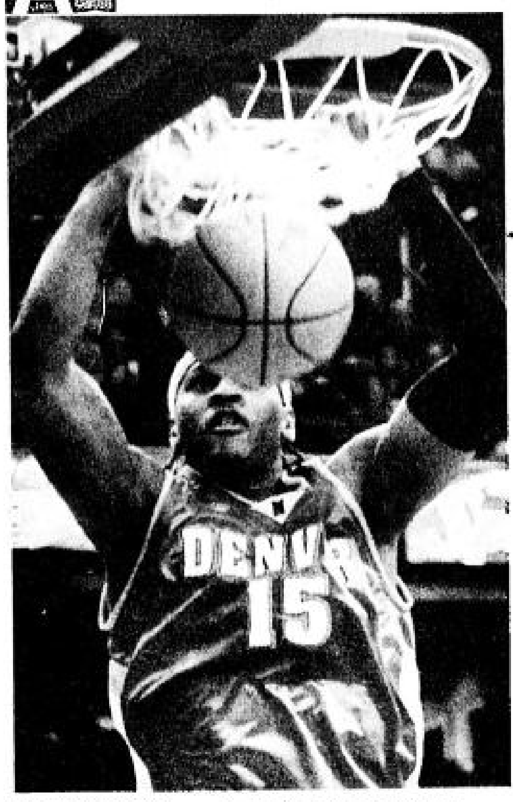

DENVER'S Carmelo Anthony soars for a slam dunk for the Nuggets. REUTERS

James lifts streaking Cavs

CLEVELAND—LEBRON JAMES poured in 36 points and Larry Hughes added 25 and seven rebounds to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to their eighth straight victory, a 115-93 demolition of the Boston Celtics on Tuesday.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas contributed 19 points to the Cleveland effort while Drew Gooden had 13 points and 15 rebounds as the Cavaliers remained unbeaten at home this season, improving to 6-0.

Ricky Davis paced the Celtics with 27 points while Paul Pierce had 24 along with 15 rebounds and Mark Blount recorded a season-best 21 points in the losing cause.

"We're on a roll," said James, after scoring 36 points for the second consecutive game.

"It would be incredible to go 41-0 at home and the way we're playing now it looks like it could happen."

Cleveland stamped its authority on the contest early, jumping out to a 27-18 lead after the opening quarter and 58-51 at the intermission.

The Celtics rallied in the third to pull to within two but then James took charge, scoring all the points in a 10-1 run that gave the Cavaliers an 84-73 lead.

In Washington, Carmelo Anthony nailed 28 points and grabbed 11 rebounds and Marcus Camby added 24 points and 14 boards to lead the Denver Nuggets past the Wizards, 108-105.

In Memphis, Darius Miles had 22 points and Zach Randolph and Juan Dixon each chipped in with 20 helping the Portland Trail Blazers to a 95-87 win over Grizzlies.

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki drained 31 points and Jason Terry added 29 as the Mavericks rolled to their sixth straight triumph, dumping the Houston Rockets, 102-93.

In Phoenix, Shawn Marion hit for 28 points and pulled down 18 rebounds and Steve Nash had 23 points and nine assists guiding the Suns to a 90-82 win over the Toronto Raptors.

In Seattle, Mehmet Okur scored 24 points and snared nine rebounds as the Utah Jazz held on to claim a 93-87 win over the SuperSonics. *Reuters*

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Wizards gun for win No.5

THE MAGNOLIA Wizards' hot start in the PBL Heroes Cup no longer surprised anyone.

As the only unbeaten team, the veteran-laden Wizards will now shoot for their fifth straight victory against Toyota Otis at 4 p.m. today at the JCSGO Gym in Cubao.

Knowing that the Wizards' offensive firepower doesn't stop with main man Arwind Santos and Fil-Am Kelly Williams, coach Louie Alas hopes for a better scoring performance from the Knights.

"Magnolia is on a roll, so we have to play extra hard and be sharp to have a fair chance of beating them," said Alas.

Earlier, Rain or Shine and Harbour Center will aim to recover from their losses at 2 p.m.

The Magnolia and Toyota Otis tussle will showcase an interesting matchup between two champion collegiate squads.

The Wizards banner the core of UAAP champion Far Eastern University headed by Santos and forward Mark Isip.

Leading the Knights' are key players Aaron Aban and Boyet Bautista from NCAA titlist Letran.

The Wizards again showcased their balanced effort by turning to Jason Misolas and Jeff Chan in their 75-67 triumph over Harbour Centre last Saturday. *Jasmine W. Payo*

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia	4	0
Montaña	3	2
Granny G	3	2
R. or Shine	2	2
Harbour	2	2
Hapee-PCU	2	3
Toyota Otis	1	3
Far Eastern	1	4

GAMES TODAY
(JCSGO Gym)
2 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Magnolia vs Toyota Otis

SLLP hosts RP-Japan race festival

THE MANILA JOCKEY CLUB (MJC) WILL host the Philippine-Japan Racing Festival 2005 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, this Saturday.

Organizers have invited His Excellency Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki of Japan as the guest of honor and other officials of the Embassy. Likewise, the members of the diplomatic corps, high ranking government officials, executives of local and foreign companies, especially Japanese establishments, leaders of the top horse racing organizations, and other top officials in the business sector were also invited.

Three major races will highlight the day's card of 13 races to be participated in by the country's top gallopers.

The Frontier Call Cup is sponsored by FAI Corporation.

The Philippine-Japan Friendship Cup is sponsored by the Philippine Racing Commission headed by its chair Jaime A. Dilag.

.The JRA Cup, backed by the Manila Jockey Club (MJC) and the Philippine Racing Club (PRC), is the event's complementary race here.

De Villa, Tabuena shine at Eagle Ridge

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL BETS DEBbie de Villa and Miguel Tabuena scored exciting victories in the recent November tournament of the Samsung Jungolf Tour school season series at the tough Dye course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

De Villa earned her first victory as a Class A player, scoring an eight-over-par 80 to beat Beverly Mendoza by three and the favored Crystal Superal by six in their division for 15-17 year-olds.

Tabuena, grandson of former airport general manager Louie, who passed away after a lingering illness yesterday, posted a 78 to finish five strokes clear of Bino dela Paz and 12 up on Remo Fueg.

Mia Legaspi scored a 75, then defeated Dania Uy in a playoff for the girls' Class E title of the event backed by Samsung in cooperation with Eagle Ridge, Sta. Lucia Realty and Alsons Land Corp.

Other boys' winners were Jik Jik Abdon, Raniel Hernandez, AR Ramos, Justin Dy and Lanz Uy. Reigning US Kids world champion Andie Unson also made the winners' roster in the girls' division along with Cyna Rodriguez, Katya dela Cruz, and sole Class F entry Abby Arevalo.

The top finishers—Class A: Boys 71 John Kier Abdon, 74 Migo Ochoa,79 Gino Bunyi;Girls 80 Debbie de Villa, 83 Beverly Mendoza, 86 Crystal Superal; **Class B:** 82 Raniel Hernandez, 84 Rocco Sumabat, 86 Soong Binyun; 83 Cyna Rodriguez, 102 Lee Hyun Min, 123 Athena Aherrera

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Orchard Founders Invt'l tees off today

ACTION IN THE ORCHARD FOUNDERS INvitational—the member-guest golf tournament of the Orchard Golf and Country Club—blasts off today with the first batch of teams playing in morning or afternoon rounds in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The first shotgun start fires off at 6:30 a.m. with 88 players teeing off at each course. The afternoon shotgun start is at 12:15 p.m.

By day's end, half of the 700-plus players making up the biggest field in nine years of the tournament will have played their first round.

While many of them must now be acquainted with the conditions at the Arnold Palmer course, which is drawing raves after a recent facelift, the Gary Player layout will be a bigger challenge this time. It was re-opened on Nov. 5.

There will be prizes to be won in tonight's cocktails and on to the awards rites on Sunday.

A Ford Explorer XLT worth P2 million is at stake as hole-in-one prize on seven par 3s of both courses. An E-Z-GO electric golf car and Club Car Precedent are additional prizes for an ace.

Also at stake are merchandise items worth over P1.4 million, including a 53-inch TV, a golf holiday courtesy of Baron Travel, airline tickets, techie gadgets and golf equipment.

Major sponsors are Globe Telecoms, Ford Philippines, Golf King, Sta. Elena Properties Inc. and Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Corp.

Security Bank Corporation/Diners, PCSO and Pagcor are premium hole sponsors.

Hole sponsors: HSBC, Philippine Airlines, Osim Phils. Inc., Asiana Airlines, Trans-Global Consolidators Inc., Vazbuilt, Beneficial-PNB Life Insurance Co. Inc., Chikka Asia Inc., China Trust Commercial Bank Corp., Design Packaging Industries Inc., GRM International Inc., Guthrie-Jensen, Seve RC, HBW Enterprises Co., YKK Phils. Inc., Equitable Card Center, Equitable PCI Bank, Wyeth Phils, Baron Travel Corp., GG&A Property Brokers Inc., BF Metal Corp., Del Monte Phils., Eurovek Building Solutions, Filipinas Multi line/integrated Waterproofing, Global Brands Co. Inc., Industrial Waste System Inc., Vice Mayor Louie Bustamante/Las Piñas Golfers Club, Imus Mayor Homer Saquilayan, Pepsico Inc., PN Aventajado Const. Corp., Romago Inc., E-Z-GO Pinnacle, Information Professionals Inc., Multi-Turf Equipment Co., Gainer's Marketing Corp., The Turf Co., Emeritus Security & Maintenance System, Exotic Gardens, JV VB/Landayan Const. and International Heavy Equipment Corp.

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INSIDE

• Goodbye, Franzen /A2-4
• Pinoy animator in Disney /A2-6
• Scenes from a wedding /A2-2

RP films off for Asean markets

By Marinel R. Cruz

OVER 750 FILIPINO FILMS produced by Viva Entertainment Inc. will soon be seen in three Southeast Asian countries through satellite operator Astro, according to Vic del Rosario, Viva big boss.

In a press conference at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel on Tuesday, Del Rosario announced that Viva Entertainment recently inked a three-year deal with World Media Entertainment (WME) for the airing of Viva movies in Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei early next year.

A Singapore-based company engaged in TV production and distribution and consultancy services, WME is the exclusive representative of Astro, a leading satellite operator in Asia.

"The deal is not really for Filipinos in those countries; it is more for the local markets," Del Rosario pointed out.

Big demand

He said an average of 250 Filipino movies, along with films from all over Asia, will be aired every year for three years on a television channel in those three countries.

"The demand for Filipino movies is great. The most popular soap in Malaysia now is Kristine Hermosa's 'Pangako Sa'yo'," said the Viva boss.

Del Rosario added that Viva's international channel, Viva TV, along with government-run networks, PTV 4, RPN 9 and Mabuhay Channel, would be seen in the whole of North America starting Dec. 15 through cable distributor Echo Star.

Another Viva-owned channel, Pinoy Box Office (PBO), is currently being aired in the Middle East and some parts of Europe through cable provider Orbit TV, Del Rosario said.

WME group chief executive officer Shao Tze Khoo said: "I keep telling Mr. Del Rosario, why limit your products to Filipino audiences abroad when you can go

RP FILMS/ A2-4

REGINE Velasquez: "Why not?"

Mega in Malay, Songbird in Bahasa

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WITH A NEW MARKETING AND PROMOTION deal with Singapore-based World Media Entertainment, Viva Entertainment will soon offer not only its movies, but also its extensive catalogue of recordings to the Southeast Asian market,

"Filipino artists have a huge potential," says Shao Tze Khoo, group chief executive officer of World Media Entertainment. "Music is even more universal [than movies or TV shows]."

Khoo is bullish: "With active promotion and marketing, Filipino artists will surely make it big in the region."

He believes Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez will become a big regional "diva"—and singing in Bahasa—in the same way that Jerry Yan (of "Meteor Garden" fame) has become a pan-Asian icon.

Khoo predicts: "Regine will sell a lot of

MEGA/ A2-3

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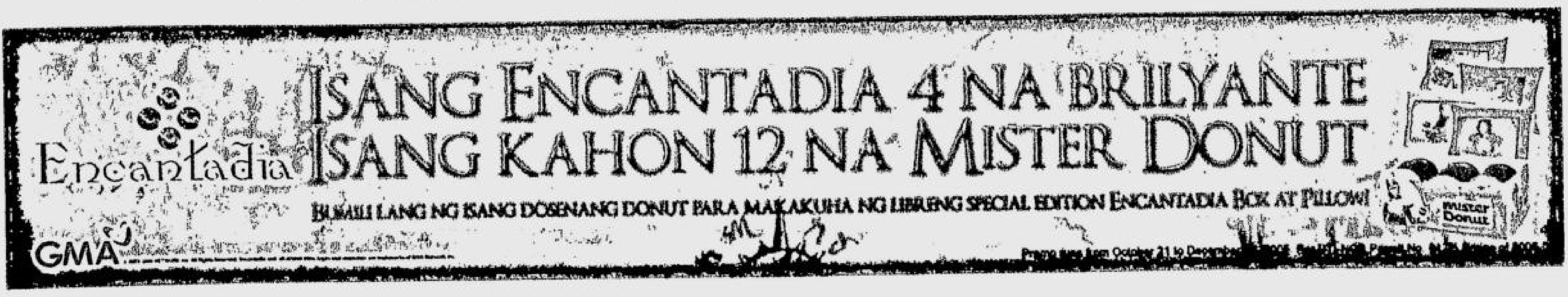

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Andeng and Jun-Jun leave today for Europe

By Nini Valera
Photos by Rudy Esperas

TWO DAYS AFTER JUN-JUN YNARES and Andrea Bautista were wed at the Manila Cathedral, she was shopping for groceries, stocking up her pantry. Today, she leaves with her husband for their honeymoon in Europe.

"Andeng" is the daughter of former Sen. Ramon Revilla and the late Azucena Mortel, and the sister of Sen. Bong Revilla. Jun-Jun, an assistant secretary at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is the son of Rizal governor Casimiro Ynares and Rebecca Ynares.

People who know her say it is typical of the 29-year-old to take charge of even the most mundane chores, if it involves the welfare of her family.

Last Saturday's wedding was one of two major productions that Andeng handled this year. The other one was the family-produced movie, "Exodus," one of the finalist-entries in this year's Metro Manila Film Festival.

The church wedding was the second wedding rites for the couple. They exchanged vows in civil rites on Nov. 12 in Binangonan, Rizal, Jun-Jun's hometown.

'So happy'

"I feel so blessed," Andeng told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone conversation last Monday. "I am so happy. I feel so loved by my parents-in-law and my sisters-in-law, Nina and Rebecca."

The -wedding ended the couple's 11-year-courtship, which started when they were pre-med students at the La Salle College of Medicine in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

"Finally, after all these years, we're married," Jun-Jun exclaimed. "I'm looking forward to the whole package—family and kids—at least four children."

Two Philippine presidents were listed among the principal sponsors—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her predecessor, former President Joseph Estrada. Neither one turned up in church or at the lavish reception in Shangri-la Makati. Ms. Arroyo sent a representative, her sister-in-law, Marilou Arroyo.

The movie celebrities seemed to have been eclipsed by the presence of *politicos*—Sen. Loi Estrada and son and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who represented former President Estrada; principal sponsors Ambassador Edgardo Angara, Sen. Miriam Santiago, Rep. Cynthia Villar, Rep. Gilberto Duavit and Mayor Jejomar Binay; and guests including Mayor JV Ejercito, Rep. Ace Barbers and Sec. Mike Defensor.

Scene stealers

Scene stealers among the stars were Rufa Mae Quinto, in a breast-baring aquamarine gown, and Gretchen Barretto, who was regal in an upswept hairdo and elegant navy-blue gown.

Philanthropist Rosemarie Arenas, also a principal sponsor, was a star all her own. She chatted with INQUIRER Entertainment about her gown, designed by Paul Cabral, who also dressed up the bride and the entourage.

Cabral outdid himself in creating Andeng's bridal gown. Made of Mikado silk and embellished with Swarovski crystals, the strapless, waist-clinching gown had a five-meter train that required four women to mind it as the newlyweds made the rounds of their guests at the Shang.

Earlier in church, the train seemed to float as Andeng walked gracefully toward her groom, escorted by her father and brother Bong only when she was half-way down the aisle. All attention was focused on the bride from the start of her march. Andeng cried softly as the older senator gave her away.

> The brand-new hubby is looking forward to 'at least four' kids

MARRIED "finally," after 11 years.

SEN. Jinggoy and wife Precy

SEN. Bong Revilla outside the Manila Cathedral

ROSEMARIE Arenas and Phillip Salvador

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3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 (DOLBY) MY LITTLE BRIDE
3 (DOLBY) THE MYTH
4 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 PRIME
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 SHANGHAI LILY
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

MARKET! MARKET!
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 DOOM
3 CRY WOLF
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994
1 SEX MEDUSA
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 (DOLBY) RESERVED
6 RESERVED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY
3 (DTS ES) GHOST INSIDE
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) MY LITTLE BRIDE
2 BOLD STAR
3 HIGH RISK
4 (DTS)

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 SYOTA NG BAYAN
3 (DTS) THE MYTH
4 GHOST INSIDE
5 FOUR BROTHERS

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 GHOST INSIDE
2 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
2 GHOST INSIDE
3 SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8409
1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 DOOM
3 (DOLBY) FLIGHT PLAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 DOOM
2 INTO THE BLUE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 ISPIRITISTA
2 MASARAP BA ANG BAWAL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 HARRY POTTER 4 MTRCB GP
FS 12:15 3:30, 6:45 10:00pm LMF
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE MTRCB: PG-13
FS 1:30, 4:20 7:10 10:00pm LMF
3 F FILM FESTIVAL
4 PRIME MTRCB R-13
FS 1:40 4:10, 6:40, 9:10pm LMF
PREMIERE THEATRE HARRY POTTER 4 MTRCB GP
FS 11:15 2:30 5:45, 9:00pm LMF
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THE FESTIVAL
The Feminist Centennial Filmfest

CINEMA 3
Nov.23 (Wednesday)
Iron Jawed Angels (U.S.A.)
by invitation only
Nov.24 (Thursday)
1 pm : Say I Do (Canada/Philippines) & Ynang Bayan (Philippines)
4 pm : Iron Jawed Angels (H.B.O./U.S.A.)
7 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
9:30 pm : Phir Milenge (India)
Nov.25 (Friday, Filipino Day)
1 pm : Ang Tanging Ina
4 pm : Minsa'y Isang Gamu-Gamo
7 pm : Bata, Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?
9:30 pm : Moral
Nov.26 (Saturday)
10:30 am : Symposium
1 pm : She Says: Women In News (U.S.A.)
4 pm : A Little Color (Switzerland)
7 pm : Te Doy Mis Ojos (Spain)
9:30 pm : The Road Home (China)
Nov.27 (Sunday)
1 pm : Dahil mmahal Kita (Philippines)
4 pm : Say I Do (Canada/Philippines) & Ynang Bayan (Philippines)
7 pm : Baran (Iran)
9:30 pm : Iron Jawed Angels (U.S.A./H.B.O.)
Nov.28 (Monday)
1 pm : Everyone Loves Alice (Sweden)
4 pm : Manthan (India)
7 pm : Frida (Mexico)
9:30 pm : Anak (Philippines)
Nov.29 (Tuesday)
1 pm : Tumaini (Tanzania)
4 pm : Baran (Iran)
7 pm : The Road Home (China)
9:30 pm : She Says: Women In News (U.S.A.)

* Tickets will be available two (2) hours before each screening time at the Shang Cineplex ticket booth (Level 6). Strictly one (1) ticket shall be issued per person.

Shangri-La Plaza

QTV's 'Women's Desk' commendable but ...

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SINCE IT STARTED TELECASTING LAST NOV. 11, we've been viewing QTV's new shows across the programming board, trying to get a general handle on what the refurbished channel's main thrust is shaping up to be.

More specific inputs: On the upside, "Women's Desk" initially zeroed in on topical issues like child offenders being forced to live with adult prisoners in city jails, etc.

Aside from the personal pathos and injustice that the specific cases elicited, the thematic focus was valuable for its ability to inform similarly disadvantaged women and children about what they could do when their own rights were being trampled on.

This is an invaluable contribution that should go a long way in righting wrongs all over the land, so we commend the show for taking this helpful how-to approach.

Less reliable

Less reliably informative is the more slapdash show, "Ang Pinaka-," which lists the most striking instances of new trends, most amazing transformations, etc.

The show isn't very interesting to watch because it's so subjective. So-called "experts" are polled, and they rank examples illustrating each week's chosen theme in a rather whimsical way.

Thus, in the "transformations" show, the top slot was assigned to the so-so talent, Ethel Booba. Talk about an anti-climax, that was it.

To do better, the show needs to get "experts" who can come up with less whimsical choices. And the production itself should go beyond the simple ennumeration level and utilizing stock footage, so its effect is fresher and more dynamic. In other words, work harder, everybody.

> 'Ang Pinaka-' is subjective. It needs 'experts' who can come up with less whimsical choices. In short, everybody should work harder

'Moms' in trouble

The weekday show, "Moms," appears to be in trouble. After a good first telecast, the program followed up with an episode about Filipinas who have married foreigners. Thus, the show's emphasis on issues affecting mothers and children was momentarily sidetracked.

One of the hosts also struck a sour note when she dissed the ethnic dishes that the Filipinas' husbands invited her to sample.

Yes, the host may have been trying to be funny by acting so ornery, but the effect was quite the opposite.

"Moms" has a very significant focus, so it should stick to helping viewers clarify issues related to parenting, period. Keep the "entertaining" detours to a minimum, please.

And the hosts should be workshopped on what it really takes to be a truly effective TV program host. Fun and games are OK, but they should by no means be what "Moms" is mainly about.

'An Offering'

International Christian Academy repertory presents "An Offering," a musical play slated on Dec. 10 and 11 at the Insular Life Theater. The adaptation of "The Texas Legend of the Bluebonnet" is about an orphaned princess who can only give her crown to save the kingdom she loves, for the sake of her people. Call Ms. Cipriano at 820-4624.

'The Chillout Project'

Anton Ramos' latest compilation, "The Chillout Project: Acid Jazz and Sisters of the Sun," takes the musical genre to greater heights. Cuts include "Think Twice/ More Than Your Lover," "Harvest Moon," "With or Without You" and "Sing Me."

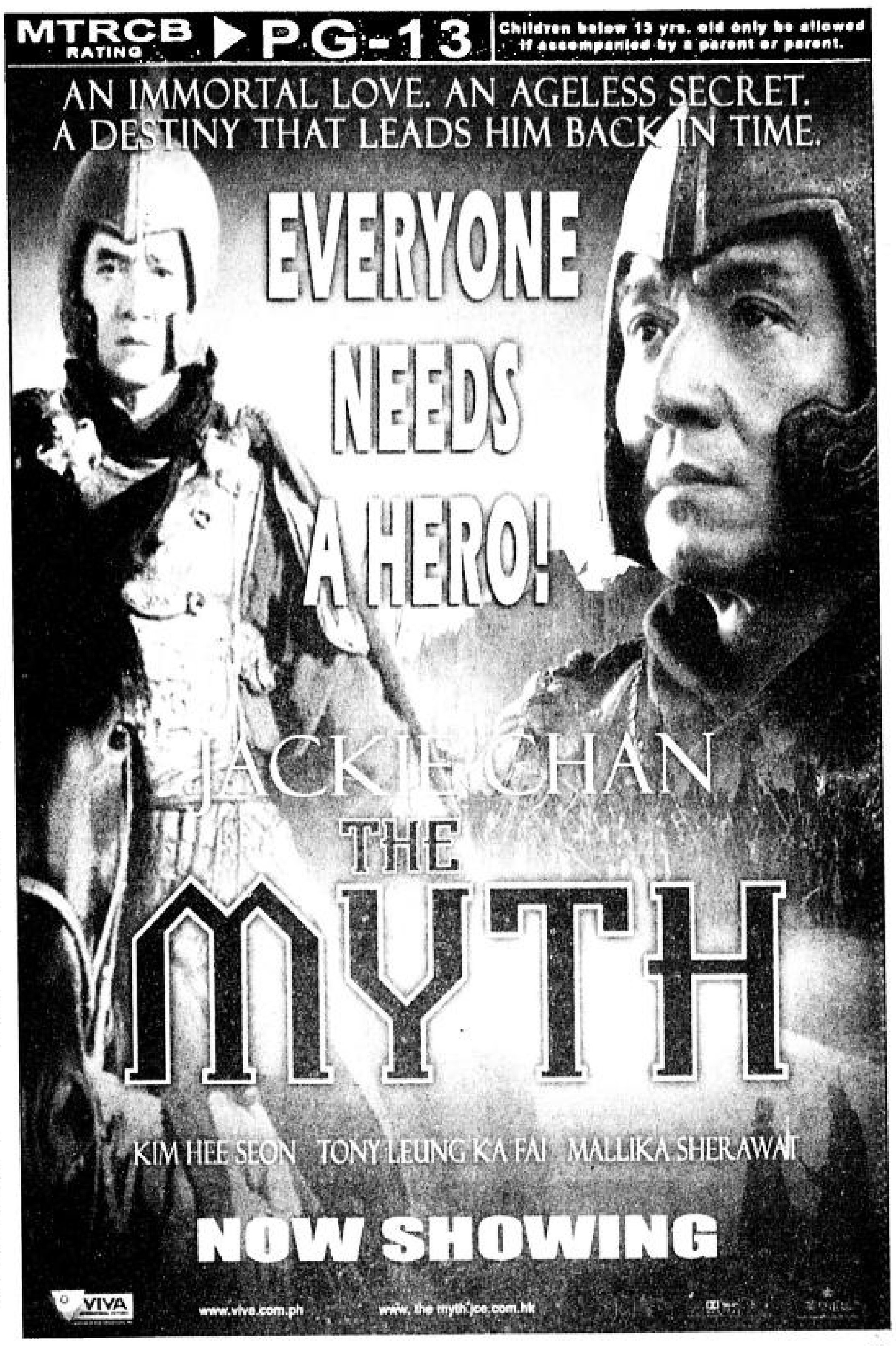
'Spellbound'

The 28th version of "Spellbound" comes to Manila in time for the holiday season. The magical show features 17 new illusions, 25 top-notch performers from four continents, music, comedy, and eye-popping acrobatic feats.

Among the performers are Majestix, Human Design, Los Hincas Gauchos, Jackson Rayne, and Laura Rios. Catch this Christmas spectacular created by Dick and Lynne Forter starting Dec. 25 at the Araneta Coliseum.

'2046' on Star Chinese Movies

Wong Kar Wai's acclaimed film, "2046," will premiere on Star Chinese Movies at 9 p.m. on Nov. 26. Tony Leung returns as Chow Mo Wan, a writer who goes through a series of relationships with different women-a prostitute (Zhang Ziyi), a gambler (Gong Li), a cabaret singer (Carina Lau Ka Ling), and his landlord's daughter (Faye Wong).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JACKIE CHAN
THE MYTH
KIM HEE SEON TONY LEUNG KA FAI MALLIKA SHERAWAT
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VIVA
www.viva.com.ph

Mega in Malay ...

From page A2-1

records in Indonesia; Sharon Cuneta also shows a lot of promise."

Other artists in the Viva film/recording catalogues who can cross over, according to Khoo, are Anne Curtis and Rufa Mae Quinto.

How about Sarah Geronimo, whose fellow Champion Christian Bautista, is now an Indonesian chartbuster?

"It will depend on the demand," says Vic del Rosario, chief executive officer of Viva Entertainment.

Khoo notes that the Indonesian market is young and 230-million strong. "And the demographic is similar to that of the Philippines."

Viva is also looking into "concert production" with WME.

Khoo says his company is in a very good position to promote OPM in Southeast Asia.

"Astro, our partner in Malaysia, is behind the top five radio stations in that country," Khoo says. "That's 70 percent of the market."

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Korea Pictures presents
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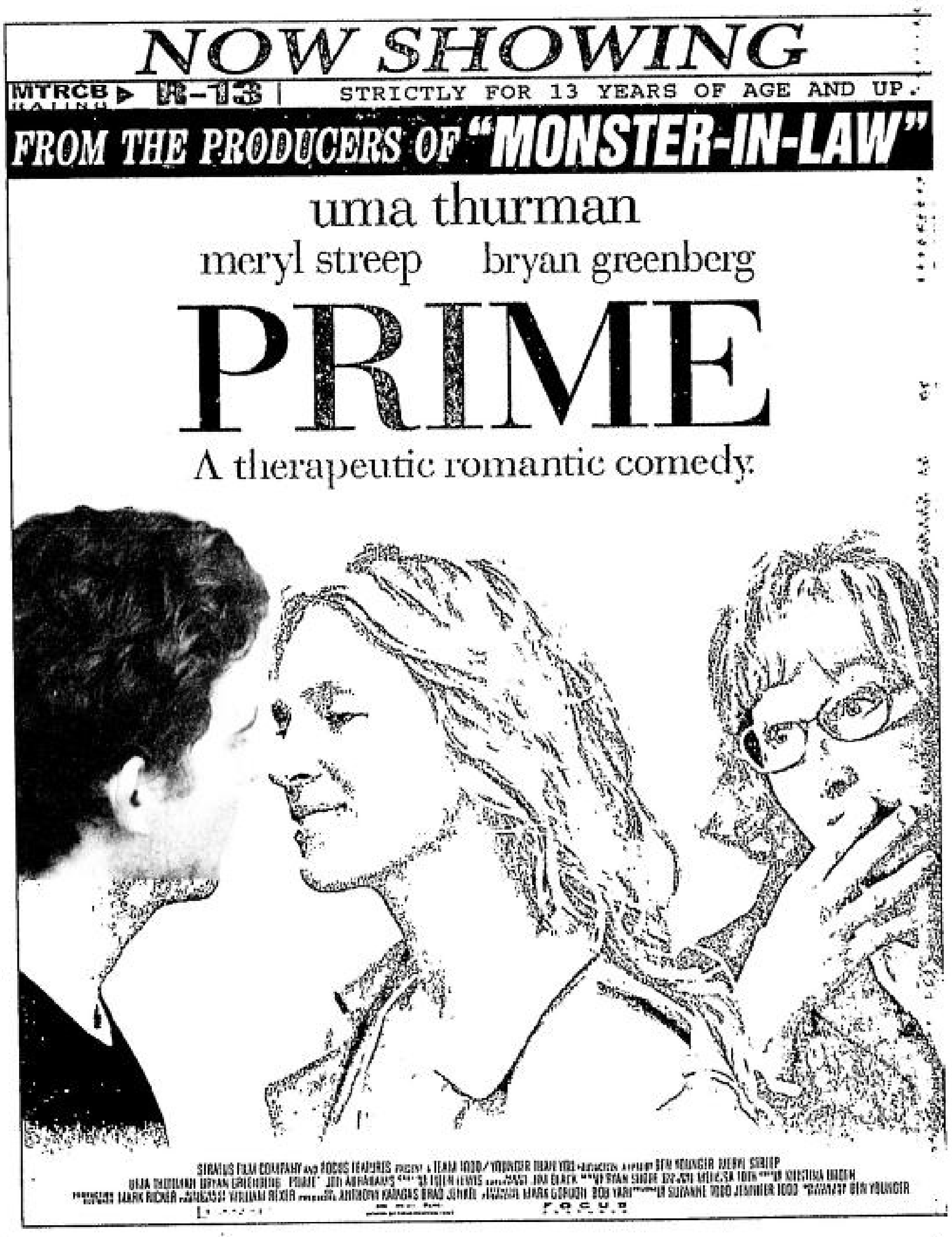
A film by Kim Hojun
TAGALOG VERSION
Korea Pictures presents a Culture Cap Media production a film by Kim Hojun starring Kim Raewon & Moon Geunyoung
Theme Song "My Love" by Mocha under XAX Records available at leading records outlets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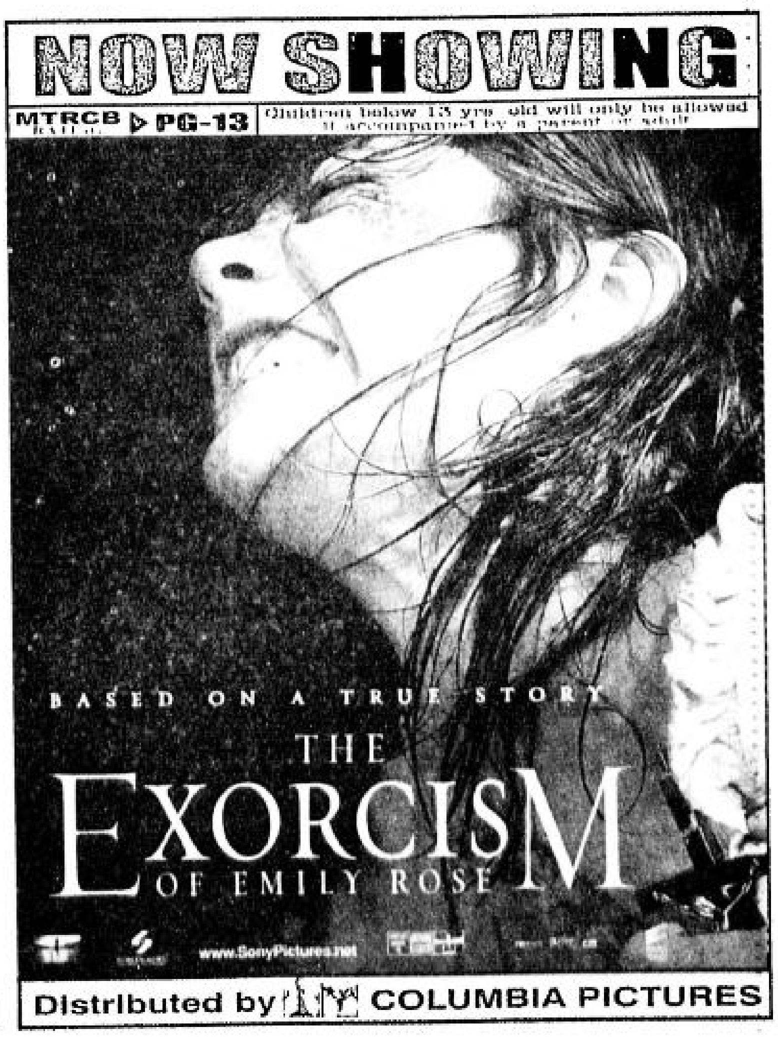
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THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
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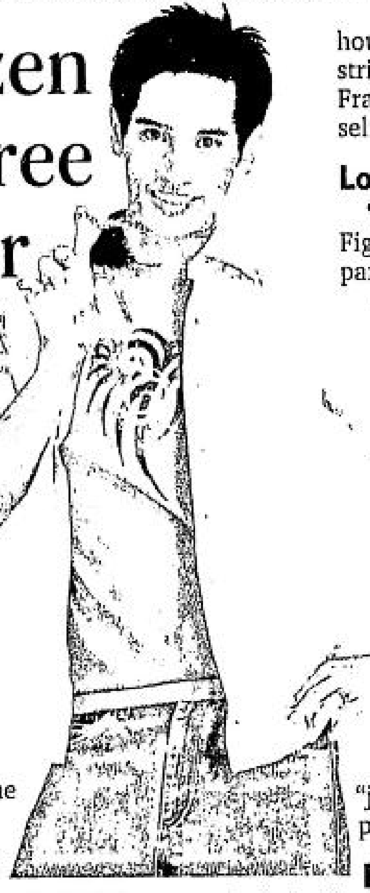
"This generation's SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE with a twist of GHOST."
Reese Witherspoon Mark Ruffalo
Just Like Heaven
Only love can bring you back...
MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE
IN THEATERS NOVEMBER 30
Solar Entertainment Corporation

'Jologs' Franzen happy to be free of Big Brother



"I DIDN'T mean to do all that."

By Nini Valera

FRANZEN FAJARDO, THE LATEST "Pinoy Big Brother" house mate to be evicted, declared that he felt like a man again the minute he stepped out last Saturday night in a dramatic forced eviction..

Speaking in Filipino, Franzen told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday that he could be himself again—playful, carefree, and human.

"It's difficult to control your emotions in that setting," he said, referring to the PBB setup where at least two dozen cameras are trained on the housemates 24/7.

In the beginning, Franzen, 23, managed to hide his true colors by keeping a low profile. He hardly talked to his housemates and kept to himself. But after striking a friendship with house mate Jayson, Franzen turned into a brazen caricature of his self-effacing self.

Loneliness

"The loneliness got to me," said Franzen. Fighting his longing for friends and family apparently caused Franzen to break house rules, which eventually led to his forced eviction.

"I didn't mean to break the rules," he said, "but I couldn't help myself."

He enumerated his infractions: locking the door to the toilet, turning on the light, going beyond the five-minute limit for baths, silently mouthing words to Cass, passing a note to Jayson and, finally, relating to Jayson what transpired between him and Big Brother in the "confessional."

Franzen had endeared himself to millions of viewers for wearing the tag "jologs" like a badge of honor. "If that's how people see me, that's fine by me," he said.

Discomfort

He admitted that he had been uncomfortable with an eclectic mix of housemates that came from higher social levels.

"I felt how it was to be poor," he said. "For example, at the dining room table, [all] the housemates used spoons and forks. I prefer to eat with my hand, with one foot on the chair."

Franzen was also referred to as "kakosa," street parlance for cell mate.

The text-voting public obviously found his "jologs" and "kakosa" qualities endearing. Josie Ito, wife of a Japanese national, earlier donated the equivalent of P25,000 in Japanese yen to buy votes for Franzen. The money was turned over by PBB business unit manager Linggit Tan to host Willie Revillame, who gave the money to Franzen.

"I gave it to my wife," said Franzen, adding that the money would help pay off his family's debts. Before he joined PBB, Franzen owed back rent on his P2,500-monthly apartment in Valenzuela City. (The last house mate standing stood to win P5 million worth of prizes, including a house and lot.)

Apology

He apologized to his supporters. "I am sorry that I let them down," he said. "I've learned my lessons now, and it's time to move on."

His biggest supporter is his wife, Love Joy, a vegetable vendor. While Franzen was still in the running, Love Joy had distributed leaflets in public places, like MRT stations, urging people to vote for Franzen. She said she would spend as much as P200 a week on the leaflets.

What's in store for him?

"Guestings in ABS-CBN shows and promo tours for PBB," said Franzen. "I've always wanted to be in front of the camera. I dream of becoming another Dolphy or Long Mejia."

Indeed, it was Franzen's humor that pulled him out of desperation in Big Brother's house. Now, the world is his playground.

RP films off for Asean markets

From page A2-1

mainstream? I believe that Filipino products are easily marketable [but] no one has actively promoted them."

He added: "This is the trend—we should go regional. [Then] you get more returns for your investments."

Khoo said his group plans to invite Pinoy artists like Regine Velasquez and Anne Curtis, to visit the target territories, "so they can promote themselves."

In Singapore, he said, "you already have many talents—like Donita Rose and Sarah Meier (VJs on the Singapore-based MTV channel)." Unfortunately, Khoo said, "they are not well promoted."

Subtitles

Del Rosario said the films that will be aired via Astro would either be subtitled or dubbed in the local language.

"We watch Jerry Yan of 'Meteor Garden' speak in different languages—Tagalog, Bahasa, Thai ... it wouldn't be unusual to hear Regine speak in Bahasa," Khoo stressed.

Also part of the contract is a co-production of WME and Viva Entertainment titled "Marooned." The TV series, a sexy comedy, will be aired in Indonesia early next year.

"Marooned" is shot in Subic and features Jen Rosendahl, Jaycee Parker and Indonesian comedians Parto, Kiwil, Muhammad Gary Iskak and Kumarason Chinnadural.

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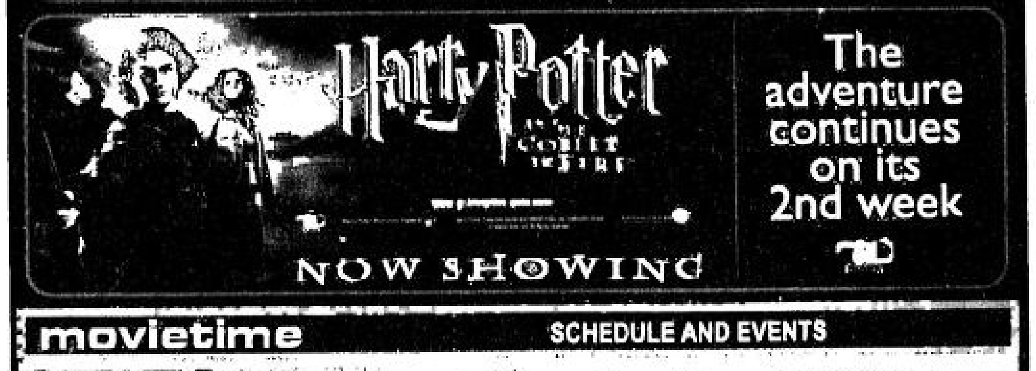

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
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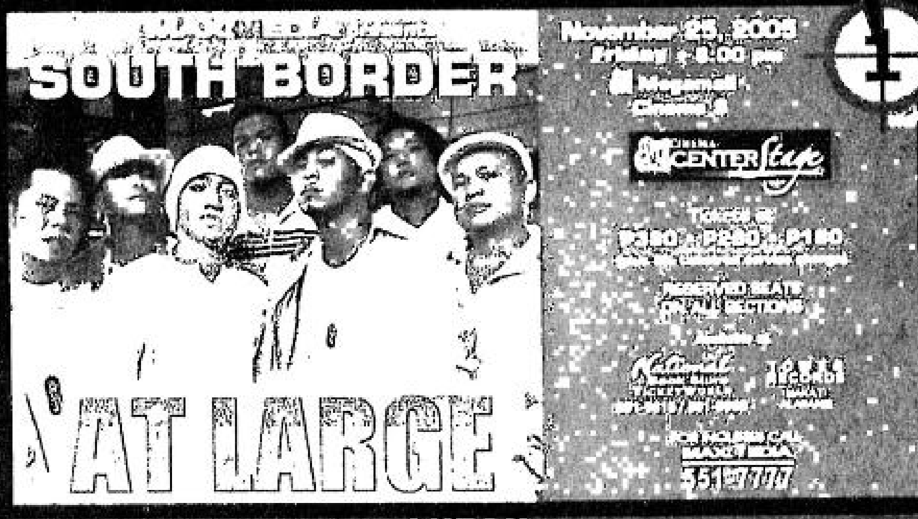
movietime SCHEDULE AND EVENTS
Megamall HARI NG SABLAY Nov. 26 • Cinema 3
Megamall ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS Nov. 29 • Cinema 2
RED CARPET PREMIERE
Manila JUST LIKE HEAVEN Nov. 28 • Cinema 6
Megamall AN UNFINISHED LIFE Dec. 1 • Cinema 2
Megamall THE FOG Dec. 5 • Cinema 1

GUARANTEED SEATS
THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:40FS/12:10MF/03:20/06:30 09:10LFS/09:40LMF/12:20END
2 PRIME 11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:50END
MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:00FS/11:30MF/02:40/05:50 08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:40END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:55FS/12:15MF/03:20/06:25 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END
2 THE MYTH 12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12 09:12LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 FOUR BROTHERS 11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:18LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END

METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 PRIME
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 PAPARAZZI
8 APRIL SNOW
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 MY LITTLE BRIDE
12 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 PRIME
4 THE MYTH
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 PAPARAZZI
8 APRIL SNOW
9 LEGEND OF ZORR
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 DUBAI
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 PAPARAZZI
2 MY LITTLE BRIDE
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 PRIME
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 THE MYTH
9 FLIGHTPLAN
10 LEGEND OF ZORRO
11 ISPIRITISTA
12 APRIL SNOW
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 PAPARAZZI
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 PRIME
6 LEGEND OF ZORRO
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 MY LITTLE BRIDE
10 APRIL SNOW
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 PRIME
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE
5 PAPARAZZI
6 APRIL SNOW
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY MANILA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 PAPARAZZI
7 APRIL SNOW
8 FLIGHTPLAN
9 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 ISPIRITISTA
12 PRIME
SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MYTH
4 PRIME
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE



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LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 DOMINO
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
6 THE MYTH
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 THE MYTH
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE
SM CITY BACOOR
1 MY LITTLE BRIDE
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 PAPARAZZI
8 FLIGHTPLAN
SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
3 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 CRY WOLF
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
SM CITY LUCENA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 FLIGHTPLAN
5 MY LITTLE BRIDE
6 THE GHOST INSIDE
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM CITY ILOILO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 RESERVED
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 UNDISCOVERED
5 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 WAITING
3 FOUR BROTHERS
4 THE GHOST INSIDE
5 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
6 THE MYTH
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
4 DOOM
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HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 2:40,5:50,9:00
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15
PRIME PG13 12:30,2:50,5:10,7:30,9:50
HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE GP 12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00

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P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
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HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:40 / 1:20 / 2:20 / 3:40 / 4:20 5:20 / 6:40 / 7:20 / 8:20 / 9:40
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
PRIME 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
APRIL SNOW 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00
THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
MY LITTLE BRIDE 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
FLIGHT PLAN 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
ALI MALL CINEMAS
① HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 1:20 / 4:30 / 7:40
② THE MYTH 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
③ EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 12:00 R4 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
④ MY LITTLE BRIDE 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
⑤ PRIME 12:25 / 3:10 / 5:55 / 8:40
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3 PRIME
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
8 FLIGHTPLAN
9 MY LITTLE BRIDE
10 HARRY POTTER 4

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 MY LITTLE BRIDE
4 PRIME
5 HARRY POTTER 4
6 THE MYTH
7 APRIL SNOW

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1 THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 2
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER 4
4 HARRY POTTER 4
5 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
6 MY LITTLE BRIDE
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 PRIME

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE MYTH
2 HARRY POTTER 4
3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 MY LITTLE BRIDE
5 HARRY POTTER 4
6 APRIL SNOW

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6 HARRY POTTER 4

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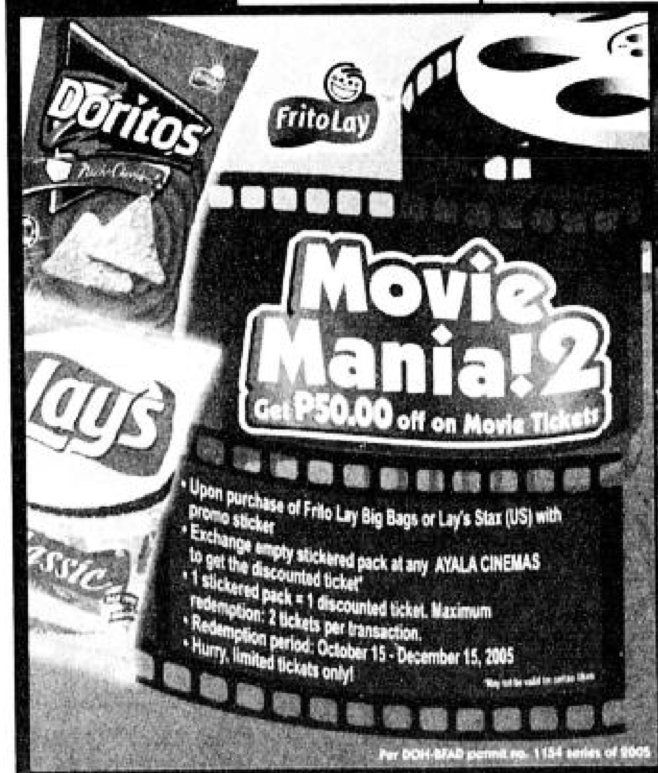
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	2 PRIME	3 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 FLIGHTPLAN	5 APRIL SNOW	6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	7 WAITING
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE MYTH 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:20, 2:30, 5:40, 8:50		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:40, 4:55, 8:10, 11:25 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 1:05, 4:20, 10:50 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 PRIME 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE MYTH 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE		
	3 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	4 PRIME	5 THE MYTH	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	2 THE MYTH	3 FOUR BROTHERS	4 THE DESCENT



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⑤ THE MYTH

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Holiday Fireworks Show

November 20, 27
December 4, 11, 18 and 25,
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Market! Market! Simbang Gabi
at the 5th level lobby
Dec. 15 - 23, 6:30 pm

The ire of Kitchie's fans a small price to pay for an eye-opener

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I HAVE BEEN SWAMPED WITH E-mail about my column on **Kitchie Nadal** and her former band mates. Some readers posted my article in her website. I'm still trying to get her side of the story. I intend to give Kitchie equal space. What I wrote may have caught the ire of Kitchie's diehard fans but that's a small price to pay for presenting an eye-opener in the local music scene. All musicians, whether they are the stars of the band or not, deserve equal respect.

***

"STARSTRUCK 3 Nationwide Invasion" will premier on Sunday, taking over the slot of "Kakabakaboo." Chaka Doll will be sorely missed. Wonder if she will resurface in other GMA 7 shows. Perhaps her show could have another season. It registered high ratings even if it was just a special Halloween presentation. Hopefully, the Starstruck contenders have conquered stage fright, or else the program could seem like a replay of "Kakabakaboo," a comedy of horrors.

***

HEARD that a GMA 7 top honcho squealed on **Jeremy Marquez** and **Alessandra de Rossi** at the farewell party of "Darna." The lovebirds have not officially admitted they are "on," but it's an open secret. Maybe Jeremy is wary because his marriage annulment proceedings is still ongoing.

I was the first one who wrote about his estranged wife and kids by way of a blind item a year ago. Jeremy's ex was in a rage then but now things have mellowed. They both deserve a second crack at happiness. Alessandra came into the picture long after the marriage crumbled, making her the effect, not the cause. A marriage without love often leads to a love without marriage!

***

NOW that GMA 7's "Darna" is about to fly away, ABS-CBN's Panday is just warming up. Wouldn't it have been more exciting if the Pinay superheroine and Pinoy legendary warrior crashed head on?

***

I ASKED **Sunshine Dizon**'s mom (**Dorothy Laforteza**) if she approved of her *hija's rumored political scion suitor. Without batting an eyelash she exclaimed "No way!" Ain't no sunshine when he's around, huh, Tita?*

Jazz the 2 of 'em

MY SON IC and I had a wonderful time at Merk's Bistro during the show of the Grand Dame of Jazz Annie Brazil. Although IC is not into jazz, he instantly fell in love with Annie's music. IC and I enjoyed our bonding; so did **Richard Merk** and his mom onstage. Watching them perform *live* is like being in a musical spa. Jazz the 2 of 'em!

Annie is based in New York where she has regular gigs in hip Greenwich Village. She recently received an Asian American Jazz Festival Award. She says it's a different **Annie Brazil** singing now. "It's the same sound but there's a little bit more style now. You get it with more experience."

Richard has just released his holiday album, "Merk Christmas," under Manna Records. Proceeds will go to Children's Hour.

Chris-'musts'

SPEAKING of Christmas, I asked **Ogie Alcasid** and **Lorna Tolentino** about Yuletide traditions they can't do without, and what present they'd like to receive. Ogie says: " Opening gifts with the kids is a must. I think I'll buy a new suitcase. My old one is tattered." As for LT: "*Noche buena* with the family is one thing I can's skip. Gift *ko sa sarili ko* is to travel more." More celebrity Chris-"musts" in my next column,

(Email wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)

'MAALAALA' IN JAPAN
Eula Valdez stars in a very special edition of ABS-CBN's "Maalaala Mo Kaya" tonight, the series' first episode to be shot on location in Japan. She portrays an OFW so determined to build a new life, she forgets her family back home. Jeffrey Jeturian directs.

Pinoy animator brings lots of life to 'Chicken Little'

His job at Walt Disney has been a magic carpet ride for John Aquino

By Ruel S. De Vera

IMAGINE WORKING WHERE you always dreamed you would. Imagine stepping through the looking glass and reporting for duty in the name of the Magic Kingdom. This was how John Aquino described landing a job as an animator for iconic Walt Disney Feature Animation.

"It's really great," Aquino, 36, told the INQUIRER in an exclusive telephone interview. "I work with a lot of great, colorful people here. Most important, the creative community that the studio attracts has an astounding and inspiring amount of talent."

Now Filipinos can see the fun fruits of this Pinoy's labor in Walt Disney's new coming-of-age animated feature, "Chicken Little," featuring the voices of Zach Braff and Joan Cusack, directed by Mark Dindal ("The Emperor's New Groove").

Virgilio John Aquino was born in Manila and lived in the Philippines until he was 5. His mother, Abigail, is a housewife and his father, Virglio Sr., a musician. "I grew up in Pasay City and my grandparents were missionaries. We always went to Cavite where they had a church."

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

He was also a Walt Disney fan very early on. "Ever since I was a kid and I saw 'Sleeping Beauty,' I've wanted to work for Disney."

First steps

When Aquino was 6, his mother remarried and brought him along when she settled down with a US Navy man in San Diego, California. Aquino got his Bachelor's degree in Graphic Arts from Point Loma Nazarene College, graduating cum laude. That was where his almost-magical path to Walt Disney began.

Being a fan of comic books (Marvel's "X-Men" and DC's "Justice League"), he was advised by comic book industry types to try out animation, where they said there was more money. "That was the time when 'The Little Mermaid' and 'Beauty and the Beast' came out," Aquino recalls.

So he joined Animaction, an animation school in Santa Monica. One day they had a guest speaker from Disney who talked about effects animation. Enthralled, John approached the speaker and showed him samples of his work. He was told to "keep in touch."

He joined Walt Disney Feature Animation in 1996 as a trainee for "Hercules." He steadily worked his way up to his first big project, "Fantasia 2000," on which he worked as an effects in-betweener. He received the International Animated Film Society Award for EFX for his work, particularly on the "Firebird Suite."

"I WORK with a lot of great, colorful people."

Clean-up job

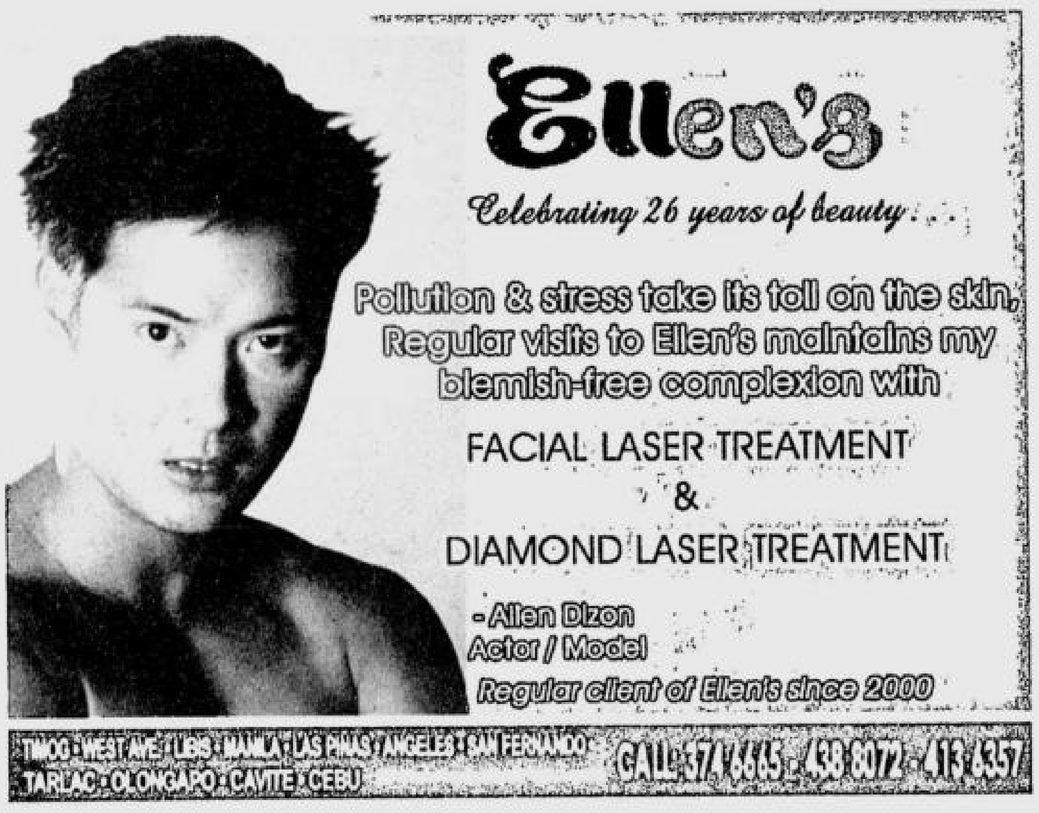
For "Chicken Little," Aquino is a character finaler, whose job is to go over the animator's work and make sure that the character's hands, for example, would not go through walls. "We basically clean up and check anything that's not right," he explained.

"Chicken Little" gave him quite a rush. "It was a lot of hard work, but it feels great," Aquino said. He's now at work on his next Disney project, "Meet the Robinsons," where he is also a character finaler. "This one will blow people away," he predicted.

Outside of his work, which is mostly indoors, Aquino, now a resident of Los Angeles, enjoys traveling, hiking, inline skating and lifting weights. Yet, he points out, he can very well stay home in his free time, with a good book.

He visits the Philippines every now and then, though he hasn't been here for a while. "I'm thinking about going home maybe next year," he says. "I miss going to Cavite; it's very nice and very rural. I miss the church. I miss all of that."

("Chicken Little" opens in Philippine theaters Nov. 30.)



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South Border and Follies de Mwah! together

SHOW TIME

THIS WE'VE GOT TO SEE.

The award-winning South Border stars back-to-back with the Follies de Mwah in a special holiday presentation on Dec. 7 at Club Mwah! on Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City.

This is the first time an R&B band will perform at the premier theater-bar with the colorful ladies (and gentlemen) of Follies de Mwah. The extravagantly clad Las Vegas-style impersonators will interpret in dance South Border's biggest hits.

Meanwhile, ongoing at Club Mwah! is Bedazzled III, a new revue of Vegas-inspired production numbers executed in the club's tradition of wit and humor.

On Dec. 12, the theater-bar will receive the Global Excellence Award for Theater and Bar Entertainment in Beijing.

Tonight

The CompanY at Mugen
Ron Antonio at Virgin Café
Silk at Suburbia
8-Track at Tavern on the Square

Tomorrow

Nyoy Volante at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge; 9 p.m.
King with Rush at Ratsky Malate and K and the Boxers at Ratsky Tomas Morato
Kyla at the Araneta Coliseum with Keith Martin, Jay-R and Karylle
Winston in Concert featuring True Faith and Natural High at Virgin Café
Ntwine and Twisted Pair at Suburbia
Fat Session at Tavern on the Square
Flintstones and The Gang at Merk's

Nov. 26

Retrospect at Makuhari Bar located at Kimura Vale Center, 1971 Leon Guinto St., Malate. Call 536-0123.
Randy Santiago with South Border at Ratsky Tomas Morato and Blow with Diether Ocampo at Ratsky Malate
Kyla and Escape at Virgin Café
Ntwine and Sipol at Tavern on the Square
Nanette Inventor and Mitch Valdes at Starmall Las Piñas; 7 p.m.

Nov. 27

K and the Boxers at Metropolis Star Alabang; 4 p.m.
S.P.I. at Ratsky Malate

November 28

Wency Cornejo at Mugen
Fat Babes at Ratsky Tomas Morato and Retrospect at Ratsky Malate
Freestyle at Tavern on the Square
Industria at Virgin Café

November 29

604 at Virgin Café
Freeverseat Suburbia
Wiseguys at Tavern on the Square
Julia Clarete at Mugen
Arpie and the Multivitamins at Ratsky Tomas Morato and Serenity at Ratsky Malate

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Peso hits 6-month high of 54.30 to $1

MVP named 'Management Man of the Year'

PANGILINAN

MANUEL V. PANGILINAN, chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and managing director of the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd., is the "Management Man of the Year 2005" of the Management Association of the Philippines.

The "MAP Management Man of the Year" is a prestigious award that the MAP bestows on individuals in the business community or government for attaining unquestioned distinction in the practice of management and for contributing to the country's progress.

The conferment of the award to Pangilinan followed a thorough, stringent selection process that the distinction "MAP Management Man of the Year" has only been conferred 27 times in the 38-year history of the award.

The criteria for the award include integrity, leadership, and management qualities; contribution to nation building and values formation; effective stewardship within the confines of the highest standard of business and management practice, among others.

The MAP said Pangilinan was chosen for engineering the turnaround of PLDT and Pilipino Telephone Corp. through a disciplined "convergence strategy" consisting of

MVP NAMED/ B2

'Hot money' inflow, OFW remittances lift local currency

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY CLOSED AT a six-month high of 54.30 against the dollar, boosted by strong dollar inflows into the stock market and remittances from overseas Filipino workers for the Christmas season.

The local currency hit an intra-day high of 54.22 at the Philippine Dealing System before easing back to 54.30, its strongest finish since May 13 when it closed at 54.20:$1. Volume turnover amounted to $301.2 million.

"With the break of the 54.30 level, it puts the 54 levels within striking distance," said Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas.

The peso gained another 12.50 centavos against the greenback yesterday from Tuesday's closing rate of 54.425 to the dollar.

Ravelas said any pullback could be limited

PESO/ B2

P40B BELOW CEILING

₱140-B budget gap seen

THE GOVERNMENT CAN TRIM its budget deficit to only P140 billion by year's end, or P40 billion below its P180-billion ceiling, on improved revenue collection and savings from interest payments, the head of the treasury bureau said yesterday.

In an economic briefing hosted by Sun Life of Canada, National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the lower-than-expected budget deficit this year would allow the government to slash its debts and avoid new borrowings.

The latest fiscal assessment was even rosier than the P161.6-billion deficit projection presented by the Department of Finance to Congress in late September.

"Our borrowing requirement becomes less. That's why I've made statements to fund man-

P140-B BUDGET/ B2

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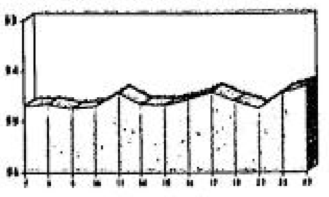


NOVEMBER

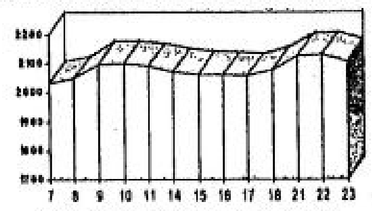
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.30 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 23, 2005

¥ 119.05 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 22, 2005

GOLD: $490.80-491.30
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 23, 2005

STOCK MARKET

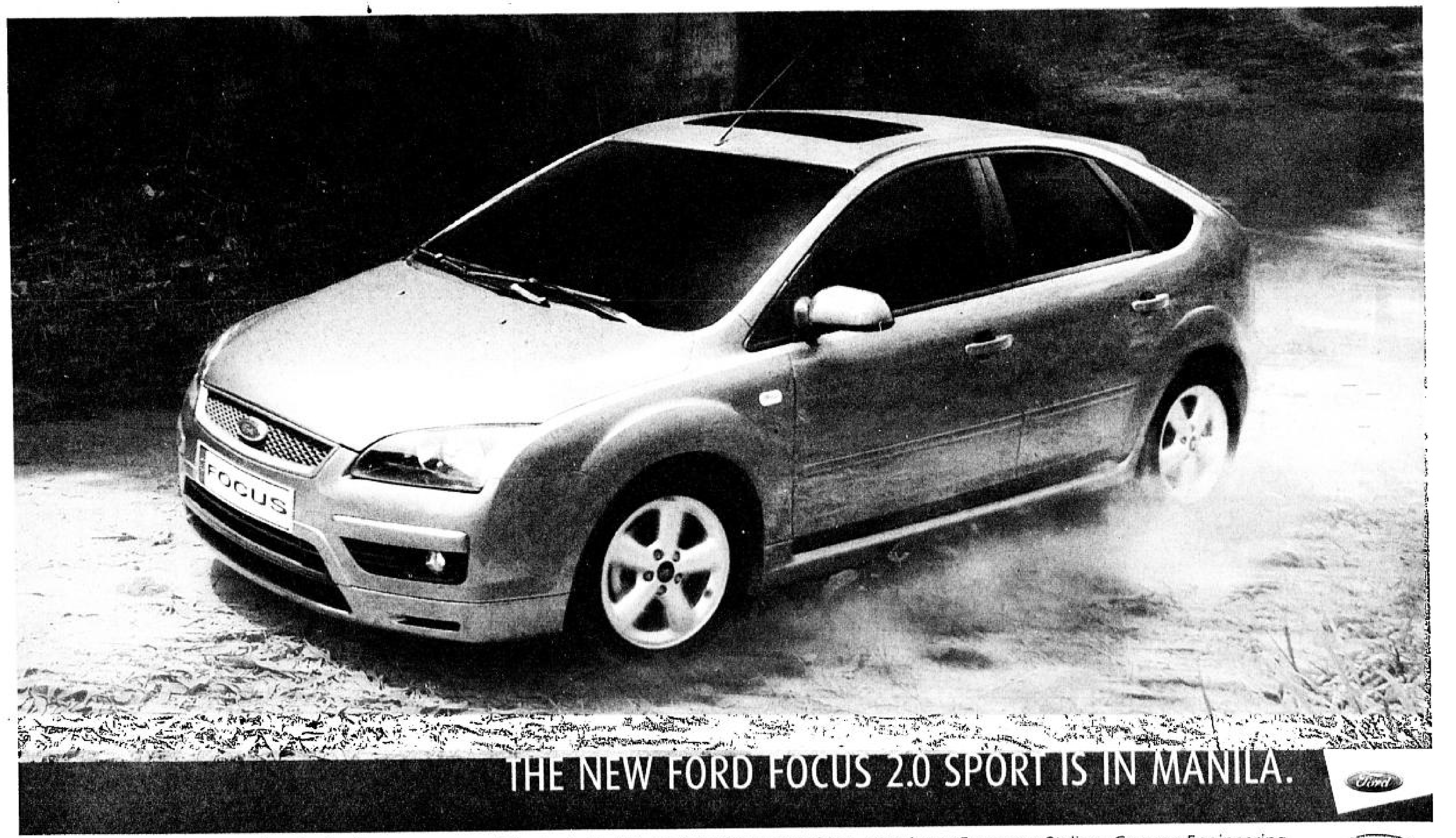


(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close 1.28% lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.28 percent lower yesterday as profit-taking set in after recent sustained gains, dealers said.

SHARES/ B4



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September 15, 2005	12.4041	10.84%	9.24%
August 15, 2005	12.2091	9.62%	7.52%

Peso Short-Term Fixed Income Fund

	NAVPU	% Return*	
		Annualized YoY	Flat Return, YTD (not annualized)
November 15, 2005	1.1134	8.42%	7.75%
October 14, 2005	1.1066	8.38%	7.09%
September 15, 2005	1.0993	8.35%	6.38%
August 15, 2005	1.0967	8.37%	6.14%

*Annualized and year-to-date historical returns of the Third Party Funds, net of taxes and fund manager fee, gross of American Express Bank's custodianship fee, as of dates indicated.

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Treasury sees better interest rate climate in '06

Gov't to generate substantial savings from debt servicing

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF TREASURY EXpects the interest rate environment to be even better next year, making it possible for the government to generate more savings from debt payments.

In its macroeconomic assumptions for 2006, the government programmed an average 91-day treasury bill rate of 7.5 percent. But the Treasury said actual domestic interest rates could be better than that.

"For 2006, the fiscal target of (reducing the budget deficit to) P125 billion is easily achievable. There is room for interest rates to further come down and for more savings," National Treasurer Omar Cruz told reporters at the sidelines of the 108th anniversary celebrations of the Treasury yesterday.

Cruz attributed the projected decline in interest rates to the expected improvement in the government's fiscal condition. A decline in the government's budget deficit elicits positive market reaction, which in turn causes interest rates to go down. A declining deficit shows a government's improving capability to service its obligations and less need for borrowings.

The P125-billion deficit ceiling set for next year, which the Treasury said the government could easily attain, would follow a programmed deficit of P180 billion for 2005. But authorities expect that the deficit for this year would be much lower than the P180-billion ceiling.

Cruz likewise said a better interest rate climate next year would be brought by a decline in oil prices, which would ease inflationary pressure. Low inflation exerts downward pressure on interest rates.

Earlier, the Department of Finance, head agency of the Treasury, said the government was able to generate P3.9 billion worth of savings from debt payments because of lower-than-expected interest rates.

The 91-day treasury bill rate, for instance, is hovering within the 5-percent level when the government already assumed in its debt payment program that it would hit an average of 8.5 percent for 2005.

"It (ability to generate savings) was not more of an overestimation of interest rates but over-performance in fiscal position. With better fiscal position, the market reacts positively and so we are able to generate some savings," Cruz said.

CRUZ

He added that the savings would allow the Treasury to borrow less than programmed. This month, the Treasury already canceled some scheduled auctions for treasury bonds. Cruz said the Treasury would announce next week whether or not it would cancel all scheduled auctions for December.

RP expected to end IMF monitoring pact in 2008

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES CAN WIPE OUT ITS REmaining debts with the International Monetary Fund by 2008 and finally scrap the post-program monitoring (PPM) arrangement by then, a visiting IMF mission said.

In a press briefing Tuesday night after concluding the two-week consultations with local authorities under the PPM, IMF division chief James Gordon said the Philippines' outstanding debts with the IMF had fallen to a record low of $350 million, or about 35 percent of its quota.

Each member-country of the IMF is assigned a quota, based broadly on its relative size in the world economy. The quota determines its maximum financial commitment to the IMF and its voting power and has a bearing on its access to IMF financing.

"Technically, the PPM is related to the country's borrowing from the IMF. When the borrowing goes down to zero, that's the absolute end point," Gordon said.

If a country's borrowing is higher than its quota with the IMF, it is obliged to stay under the PPM. In the case of the Philippines, its outstanding debts to the Fund have fallen below the country's contribution as a shareholder in the past few years, but it has chosen to keep the PPM in support of its fiscal consolidation.

By 2007, Gordon said the country's debts with the IMF would go down to $31 million.

"There could be one more extension of one more year but not beyond that," Gordon said.

The Philippines has "graduated" from the last funding program with the IMF in 2001 but remained under its close supervision since then. The existing PPM provides for frequent consultations, focusing on policies that have a bearing on external viability.

The IMF conducts a review on the Philippines twice a year under the PPM. Under this monitoring scheme, the IMF can offer its advice but no longer impose policy conditions such as

RP/B4

Peso hits . . .

From page B1

to 55-55.50 to $1, but the medium-term trend was toward an appreciation. He said the market would likely next test the P53.85-to-$1 before targeting 52 to the dollar.

"There's no requirement (for the US dollars) and there are lots of inflows, so the law of supply and demand is pushing the movement one-way toward appreciation," said the treasury official of a major local bank.

"There are talks that even John Gokongwei (patriarch of conglomerate JG Summit, which owns Robinsons Land Corp. and Universal Robina Corp.) is buying pesos now and that's something the market hasn't heard of for a long time," the banker said.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the government's improving fiscal position had removed a large burden on the local currency.

"The fiscal equation is a very vital component to the foreign exchange, external, current account and balance-of-payments outlook," Cruz said in an economic briefing hosted by Sun Life of Canada.

"We're now in a situation where the fiscal sector was no longer exacerbating the situation," he said.

A visiting mission from the International Monetary Fund said the government's commitment to implement the expanded value-added tax had lifted market sentiment, resulting in the stock market rallying, sovereign bond spreads tightening and the peso appreciating.

"Foreign portfolio investment has responded favorably to the positive fiscal news and gross reserves have risen above $18 billion," the mission noted.

"If remittances keep coming in and there are more inflows to the stock market, (the exchange rate) will breach the 54 (to $1) level," said Development Bank of the Philippines president Reynaldo David.

MVP named . . .

From page B1

consolidation, diversification and expansion.

It also cited his role in substantially enhancing shareholder value in the PLDT shares in both the Philippine Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange and spearheading PLDT's emergence as one of Asia's most recognized, admired, innovative and best performing telecommunication companies.

The MAP said Pangilinan was also instrumental in spurring investor interest in the Philippines by bringing First Pacific and other foreign investors into the Philippines.

It said the telecom executive was also chosen for being an exemplary Filipino capable of effective and ethical leadership and of competing with the best in the international business community; for an outstanding career that spans business, academe, charitable, nongovernment, arts and culture, sports and health organizations, and for leading major companies with strong bias for action, industry, integrity, spirituality, entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

Past "MAP Management Man of the Year" awardees included Washington Z. SyCip (1967), Geronimo Z. Velasco (1977), Henry A. Brimo (1978), Jose M. Soriano (1979), Cesar E.A. Virata (1981), Jaime V. Ongpin and Vicente T. Paterno (1982), Dante G. Santos (1983), Cesar A. Buenaventura and Roberto T. Villanueva (1985), Jaime Zobel de Ayala (1987), Ramon V. del Rosario Sr. (1988), Jose B. Fernandez Jr. (1989), Raul T. Concepcion (1990), Oscar J. Hilado (1991), Alfonso T. Yuchengco (1992), Juan B. Santos (1994), David M. Consunji and Rizalino S. Navarro (1996), Gabriel C. Singson (1998), Delfin L. Lazaro and Henry Sy Sr. (1999), Oscar M. Lopez (2000), Tony Tan Caktiong (2002), Jesus P. Tambunting (2003) and Rafael B. Buenaventura (2004).

P140-B budget . . .

From page B1

agers that we won't pre-fund because our requirement will be smaller," Cruz said.

"We intend to save more on interest payments and we're not borrowing more," Cruz said.

In the past, he said the government had no choice but to pay a high premium for its debts because it was in dire need of cash and was crowding out other borrowers.

"If we can do better than the P125-billion (deficit cap) in 2006, our borrowing requirement will go down again," Cruz said.

He said this was in line with the government plan to wipe out its fiscal deficit by 2008 or even earlier. With the commitment to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent, he said the government was on track with its fiscal consolidation program. *Doris C. Dumlao*

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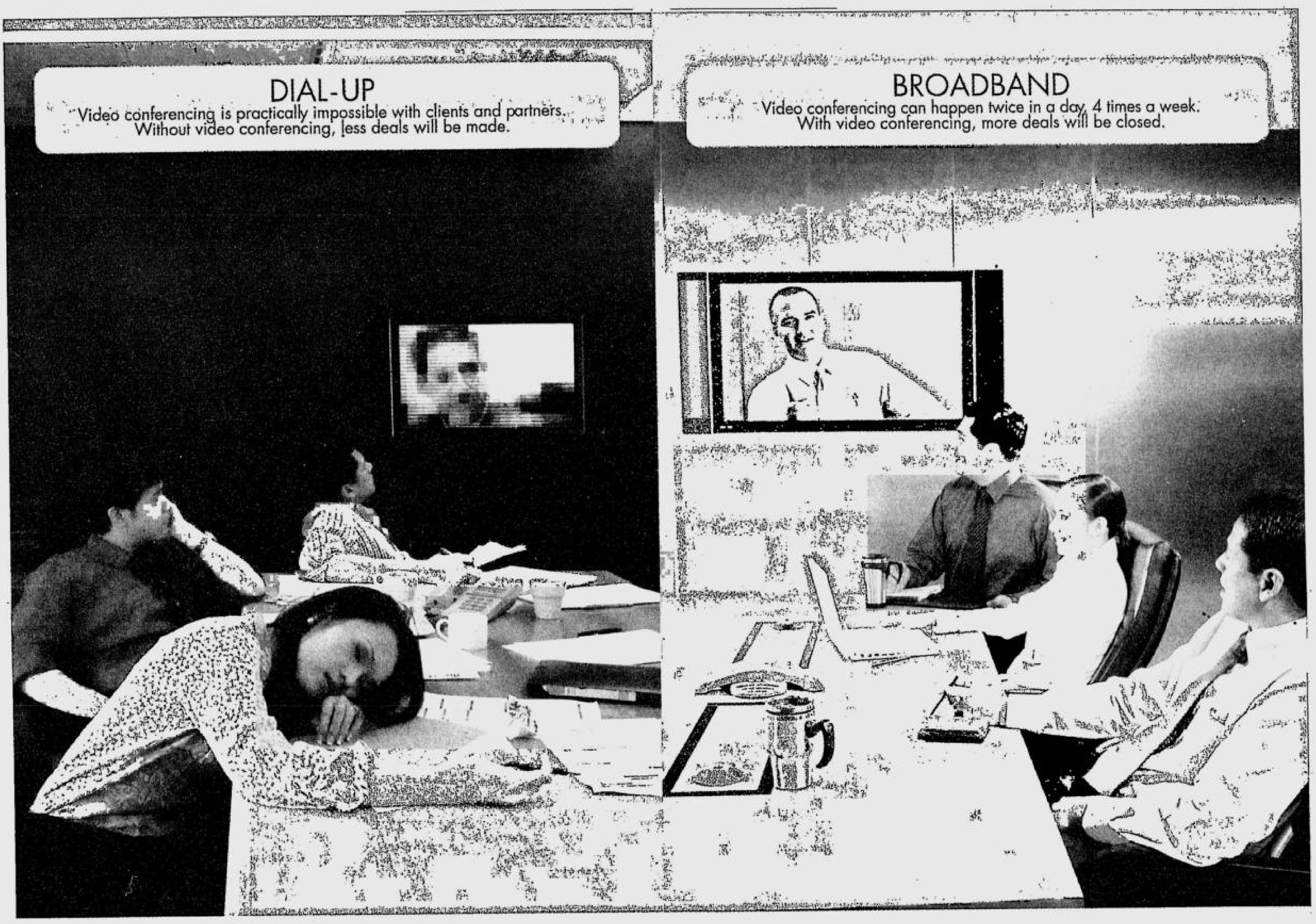
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DBP to issue peso, dollar debt instruments to raise ₱15B

Taking advantage of improving investor appetite

By Doris C. Dumlao

STATE-OWNED DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines plans to raise more than P15 billion through a combined tier 2 and hybrid tier 1 capital offering to the domestic market, taking advantage of an improving investor appetite.

In a press briefing yesterday, DBP president Reynaldo David said the bank was now seeking the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' nod for the issuance of P10 billion worth of subordinated debt to qualify as tier 2 capital by December, which would jack up the bank's capital adequacy ratio from 21 percent to about 36-38 percent of risk assets.

Whether the projected P10 billion in fresh tier 2 capital would be raised through a single or multiple offering will depend on the market's appetite, DBP consultant Jaime Panganiban added.

This fund-raising activity will be followed by the issuance of another $100 million in hybrid tier 1 capital, as soon as the BSP approves the guidelines governing the issuance of these new instruments.

Hybrid capital is a debt instrument that has maturity longer than that of tier 2 capital. It is regarded as a form of tier 1 capital, but its use is likely to be limited by the BSP to 15 percent of total capital.

The DBP's planned tier 2 offering is likely to carry a five-year maturity while the hybrid capital will mature in 10 years. Both issuances will be made locally although the proposed hybrid capital will be denominated in US dollars.

Boosted by the implementation of the value-added tax law, the market's appetite for Philippine debts significantly improved this month.

The planned capital hike is seen to prepare the DBP for the implementation of international accounting standards and Basel 2 (risk-weighted capital adequacy rules). The bank's unimpaired capital now stood at P21 billion.

For the first 10 months of the year, DBP reaped P2.77 billion in net profits or 75.32 percent better than year-ago level. It represents 131 percent of the bank's target for the period.

"Our good financial standing gives us better leverage to effectively and efficiently pursue our thrusts and programs designed to help the government attain its development agenda for the country," David said.

The bank's loan portfolio increased by 28.74 percent to P108.14 billion from a year ago, while past due ratio shrunk to 7.55 percent of loans versus 10.81 percent last year.

Masinloc power plant sale facing delay

By Abigail L. Ho

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA—DESPITE the government's optimism, the completion of the sale of the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-fired power plant may be delayed as its foreign financier takes a step back to examine the political situation before releasing more cash for the asset.

Gary Makasiar, spokesperson for Filipino-Australian Masinloc buyer YNN Pacific Consortium Inc., said the Australian financier was still assessing its next move in the light of recent political developments in the Philippines.

He said Great Pacific Financial Group of Australia had expressed concern over issues such as the Garci tapes, the threat of the establishment of a junta and the possibility of a government takeover of public utilities.

As the Masinloc plant cost a great deal of money, with YNN Pacific's winning bid placed at $561.7 million, he said the Australian funder had to take recent political events into consideration.

He was quick to add, however, that Great Pacific was not backing out of the deal.

"They're really decided to see the sale completed. They're just concerned about the current political situation. We really need to fix the (political) environment," he said in a telephone interview yesterday.

In a chance encounter here, Great Pacific chair Alfred Wong confirmed that the Australian firm was still in the Masinloc deal, dispelling industry talk that it had already backed out of it.

"We're still the financier," he said.

Makasiar said another concern that the Australian firm had was the marketability of the plant, in light of the unstable political environment.

Also, he said the company wanted to see how the wholesale electricity spot market (WESM) would go, once operational.

The electricity bourse is due for commercial operation in Luzon by January next year.

In view of these concerns, Makasiar said it was highly unlikely that the scheduled Dec. 2 deal closure would be met.

"There are still a lot of requirements that we need to comply with. We also have our own concerns. We're hoping to set a meeting with (the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.) so we can discuss our issues with them. Dec. 2 is really not feasible," he said.

The Masinloc deal should be closed 270 days after the issuance of the notice of award to the winning bidder or on Dec. 2.

EXPANDING SUBIC LOCATOR
Makoto Kurata (left), Nidec Subic Philippines Corp. president, gives Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Chair Feliciano G. Salonga (right) a briefing on Nidec products and its expansion plans. NBS is the world's top manufacturer of small precision motors, and currently maintains the largest market share in the world for spindle motors.

Sale of URC shares seen to yield ₱3.9B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TO FINANCE THE EXPANSION OF ITS BEVerage business, Universal Robina Corp. (URC) of taipan John Gokongwei Jr. is raising $72 million (roughly P3.9 billion) through the proposed sale of 365 million shares to international and local investors in January 2006.

URC will use the bulk of the proceeds from the sale to jack up the production of its C2 bottled green tea.

URC president Lance Y. Gokongwei said the company was planning to build one beverage plant overseas and six local production lines. It costs between $10 million and $12 million to build one beverage production plant, Gokongwei estimated.

He refused to reveal where in Asia URC will build its C2 plant.

Gokongwei said that aside from the new shares to be issued, the JG Summit Group was also considering selling shares of URC and other subsidiaries.

"We will take the opportunity provided by this offering to raise additional funds for the continuing expansion of URC's manufacturing assets to strengthen its first mover advantage in an emerging beverage category. We also believe we can achieve, through this offering, a market capitalization that will be attractive for many global institutional investors," Gokongwei said.

Gokongwei said URC would also use the proceeds from the sale to expand its sugar milling and refining capacity in Negros province to support the expansion of its beverage business.

It will also spend roughly $25 million to expand the capacity of its snacks and candy production plant in Vietnam.

URC also has manufacturing plants in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and China. It maintains commercial offices in Singapore and Hong Kong.

"We believe in the inherent value of our listed subsidiaries, the biggest and strongest of which is URC. Due to its limited free-float and shareholder base, the market is currently not valuing URC shares properly. We believe that in order to unlock the value of URC, the free float should be improved with an adequately sized offering, marketed to a broader base of international and local institutional investors," Gokongwei said.

URC has tapped UBS Investment Bank as the underwriter for the issue.

In a special stockholder's meeting last Tuesday , URC approved an increase in its authorized capital stock to P3 billion from P2 billion, of which 365 million will be issued as new shares to international institutional investors and domestic qualified institutional investors at a price that is within plus or minus 10 of the prevailing market price of the common shares.

JG Summit Holdings and URC are reviewing the sale of some shares in property affiliate Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC)

JG Summit's capital-raising efforts fueled speculations that the Gokongwei-led firm is beefing up its war chest for its takeover bid for Singapore office developer United Industrial Corp. (UIC), an analyst from a local brokerage firm said.

The Gokongwei Group needs roughly P33 billion to buy 70 percent of UIC at S$1.09 a share.

RP expected . . .

From page B2

those on monetary aggregates and public sector borrowings as done in previous programs.

After exiting the PPM, the country is still required as a member of the IMF to hold consultations once a year. Prior to the PPM, the Philippines has had 20 different financing programs with the IMF, with the money usually earmarked to stabilize the balance-of-payments position.

After consultations held from Nov. 10 to 20, the visiting IMF mission from Washington headed by Masahiko Takeda lauded the "significant" progress on economic reforms made since the Macapagal-Arroyo administration secured a fresh mandate in 2004.

"The first phase of the expanded value-added tax was implemented Nov. 1 and the mission welcomes the clear commitment made to raising the VAT rate on Feb. 1 next year," the mission said.

The IMF welcomed reforms in the electricity and finance sectors, including the increase in average generation rates and sales of banks' non-performing assets under the Special Purpose Vehicle framework.

The Fund also upgraded its growth forecast for the Philippines to 5 percent for this year and next year, from earlier forecasts of 4.7 percent and 4.8 percent, respectively.

Shares close . . .

From page B1

Investors are expected to continue consolidating their gains ahead of a long weekend, they added.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 27.18 points at 2,103.75 after trading between 2,086.92 and 2,130.93. Volume was 342 million shares worth P1.05 billion.

The broader all-shares index fell 14.52 points to 1,272.68, with all sub-indices retreating.

Losers beat gainers 65 to 13, with 47 stocks unchanged.

"The market is undergoing a technical correction after encountering resistance at the 2,150 level," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

"It is now time for investors to cash in gains. As a strategy, they also prefer to lighten up their load ahead of the three-day weekend," Ravelas said. Monday is a national holiday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. led the decliners, falling P35 to P1,745.

Ayala Corp. was down P7.50 at P345 while its unit, Globe Telecom retreated P10 to P780 and Ayala Land slid 20 centavos to P9.60.

San Miguel Corp. A-shares shed 50 centavos to P64 while its B-shares were down a peso at P88.50.

AFP

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 23, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	34	34	33	34	662,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	60	60	58.5	59	1,082,300
China Banking Corp.	615	615	610	610	2,450
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.63	610,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	54.5	54.5	54	54.5	170,000
International Exch. Bank	21.25	21.25	21	21.25	14,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	30.5	31	1,048,200
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30	30	216,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	25,000
Security Bank Corp.	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	148,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31	30.5	30.5	6,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3060	3070	3060	3070	310
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	210,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2070	2070	2070	2070	1,500
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	24,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.94	560,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	765	780	760	780	126,630
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	29,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	2,500,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	35,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.4	3,723,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1760	1760	1730	1745	119,090
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	520,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	5,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14	14.25	94,000
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.25	23	23.25	2,299,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.5	6.6	2,422,000
Petron Corp.	4.25	4.3	4.2	4.25	2,098,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.96	700,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	23,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.6	9.6	9.2	9.4	720,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	1,190,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.55	3.55	1,807,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	151,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	26	26	26	26	31,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	39.5	39.5	39	39	205,100
Pancake House Inc.	3.55	3.6	3.55	3.6	50,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64	63.5	64	65,700
San Miguel Corp. B	89.5	89.5	88.5	88.5	80,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	720,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	18,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	355	355	335	345	233,080
Alsons Cons. Res., Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.48	170,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.9	1,130,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.14	2.14	2.14	19,000
APC Group Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.235	0.235	250,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.4	9.4	9.4	9.4	4,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	240,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	2,402,000
Basic Consolidated, Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	80,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	2,210,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.2	780,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	2,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	38,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	50	50	48.5	49.5	781,400
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	112,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.55	3.55	489,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	130,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.28	1.32	4,660,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	20,840,000
Paxys Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.3	1,973,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.2	260,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	300,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	689,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	290,000
SM Investments Corp.	255	255	246	250	179,870
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	750,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,300,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	1,300,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	17,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.77	0.78	0.77	0.78	130,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	6,337,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	518,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	1,250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,210,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	400
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	15,000
Far Eastern University	620	620	620	620	140
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.6	7,261,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	8,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	438,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.235	0.235	450,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	10,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	2,310,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.38	1.4	11,329,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.2	830,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	140,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	600,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	44,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	340,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	175,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.8	8.9	8.7	8.9	11,450,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	330,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	70,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	711,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	51,000
Benguet Corp. B	35	35	34.5	34.5	1,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	90,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	4,990,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	8,540,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	36,200,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	15,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.0055	0.0055	16,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.18	1,088,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.42	1.42	1.36	1.38	3,303,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27	27	1,249,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	230,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	20,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.75	35,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.145	0.15	0.14	0.15	2,280,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	4,198,260	146,183,175.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	113,878,810	665,689,450.00
PRO	38,685,000	189,851,820.00
Mining	158,283,600	49,430,320.00
OIL	25,315,000	607,450.00
GRAND TOTALS :	340 360 670	1,051,762,215.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	622 57	DOWN 7 02
Comm'l & Ind'l	3,262 80	DOWN 41 83
PRO	845.17	DOWN 11.39
Mining	2,637.02	DOWN 14.56
OIL	2.88	DOWN 0.08
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	1,272.68	DOWN 14.52
Composite	2,103.75	DOWN 27.18

NO. OF ADVANCES: 13, NO. OF DECLINES: 65, NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47, NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 125, NO. OF TRADES: 3,116

CURRENCIES

November 23, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.846167	1.000000	54.5630
Japan	Yen	0.007127	0.008423	0.4596
United Kingdom	Pound	1.457438	1.722400	93.9793
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109134	0.128974	7.0372
Switzerland	Franc	0.645584	0.762951	41.6289
Canada	Dollar	0.720510	0.851499	46.4603
Singapore	Dollar	0.498537	0.589171	32.1469
Australia	Dollar	0.621587	0.734592	40.0815
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.244534	2.652590	144.7333
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225645	0.266667	14.5502
Brunei	Dollar	0.497073	0.587441	32.0525
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000100	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020528	0.024260	1.3237
UAE	Dirham	0.230381	0.272264	14.8555
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.181800	64.4826
Argentina	Peso	0.287567	0.339847	18.5431
Brazil	Real	0.374908	0.443066	24.1750
Denmark	Kroner	0.134010	0.158373	8.6413
India	Rupee	0.018487	0.021848	1.1921
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.223913	0.264620	14.4385
Mexico	New Peso	0.079669	0.094153	5.1373
New Zealand	Dollar	0.582158	0.687994	37.5390
Norway	Kroner	0.126944	0.150022	8.1857
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014176	0.016753	0.9141
South Africa	Rand	0.128091	0.151378	8.2596
Korea	Won	0.000811	0.000958	0.0523
Sweden	Kroner	0.104624	0.123645	6.7464
Syria	Pound	0.016301	0.019264	1.0511
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025197	0.029778	1.6248
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000394	0.000466	0.0254

Public sector deficit hit ₱74.589B in first 9 mos

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT RECORDed a consolidated public sector deficit of P74.589 billion for the first nine months of the year, 55 percent below the ceiling set for the period of P164.905 billion.

The CPSD reflects the combined budget standing of the national government, local government units and state-owned firms.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the latest CPSD figure was equivalent to 2 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The government initially expected the CPSD as of September to be equivalent to 4.2 percent of GDP.

The improved fiscal performance of the public sector for the period was attributed to the ability of both the national government and GOCCs to post lower-than-programmed budget deficits, and the increase in the budget surplus registered by the LGUs and government financial institutions.

"This reflects the continuous effort of the government to further improve the economy through more vigorous revenue mobilization and expenditure management," Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said in a statement.

The national government incurred a budget deficit during the period of P108.478 billion, lower than the official ceiling of P145.886 billion.

The GOCCs monitored by the DOF posted a combined budget deficit of P29.057 billion, compared with the ceiling of P46.876 billion.

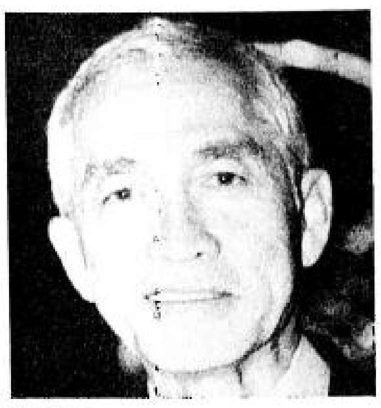
Contributing to the deficit was the P12.353 billion allotted by the national government to pay the remaining debts of the old central bank.

On the other hand, the surplus recorded by the LGUs reached P20.418 billion, exceeding the target of P14.411 billion.

The surplus recorded by GFIs during the period reached P4.598 billion compared with the ceiling of P4.532 billion.

The following also registered a surplus: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, P9.338 billion; and social security institutions, P37.272 billion.

Social security institutions include the Social Security System (SSS), the Government Service Insurance System GSIS), and PhilHealth.



TEVES

WINNERS ALL. Recipients of this year's Citigroup Microentrepreneur of the Year Awards are flanked by representatives from Citigroup, government, private sector and UNDP who took part in the awards ceremony held last month.

ERIK ARAZAS

PCCI urges gov't to explore other revenue sources

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE COUNTRY'S largest business group yesterday urged the government to look at other sources of revenue aside from the expanded value-added tax as the new law has pushed up the cost of doing business.

Jose S. Alejandro, chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's committee on energy, said the new VAT law posed a triple whammy on business in that:

- the version that was passed provided for a 70-percent cap on the input vat credits of firms when the business sector pushed for full credit:
- the VAT would increase by 2 percentage point to 12 percent starting February; and,
- the law provided for an increase in the corporate income tax by 3 percentage points to 35 percent.

Alejandro said, however, that the initial effect of the reformed VAT implementation had been beneficial to the business sector in that the peso value appreciated, tax collection seemed to improve and there were indications of lowered interest rate.

Alejandro said that a PCCI study of the different business sectors show that most businesses were carrying on with their operations despite increased costs, especially since the VAT was now imposed on electricity and petroleum products.

"The No. 1 concern of most companies is the cost of power, followed by labor costs," he said. "A few firms said their main concern was the cost of services and transportation."

"Businesses expect the national government to explore other sources of revenue other than more VAT," Alejandro said.

He added that the businesses wanted the government to take steps reducing the cost of business processes by lowering the various agencies' fees and charges.

MVP calls for new policy on RP telcos

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOT BIG ENOUGH TO host too many players in industries like telecommunications, broadcasting and cable television, according to Manuel V. Pangilinan of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"Do you want the elegance of a free market policy where you have 20 players or you want just three or four players that are making money?" he asked reporters after his speech at the 43rd annual meeting of the Philippine Economic Society.

Pangilinan is managing director and chief executive officer of Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd and chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Smart Communications Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corp. and Metro Pacific Corp.

He had objected to the government's policy of deregulation, especially in telecommunications and media where very few players are profitable.

Pangilinan called deregulation "the failed mantra of the '90s."

He instead urged the government to dump its free market policy in favor of a new and "profitable" competition framework that worked well in regulated and managed economies like Hong Kong and Malaysia.

"Instead of free and open competition, an enlightened competition policy may be more appropriate for franchised industries where market size is dependent on mass market spending, where capital requirements are large, extensive and sustaining, and where there isn't space for too many players if you want them to be profitable," Pangilinan added in his speech.

ATI revises upgrade plan

THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY HAS approved the revision in the plan of Asian Terminals Inc. to upgrade the South Harbor.

"The PPA board had approved the revision in the master plan for the South Harbor as assumptions made in the original plan had changed," said Raul Santos, assistant to the PPA general manager, in an interview.

PPA general manager Oscar Sevilla earlier said ATI had asked the maritime regulator to allow it to cut by more than half its original investment plan of $300 million for South Harbor.

Sevilla said the new master plan submitted by ATI would involve only about $130 million in investments.

It includes improvements in Pier 2 as well as the construction of a new building on the lot currently occupied by the PPA.

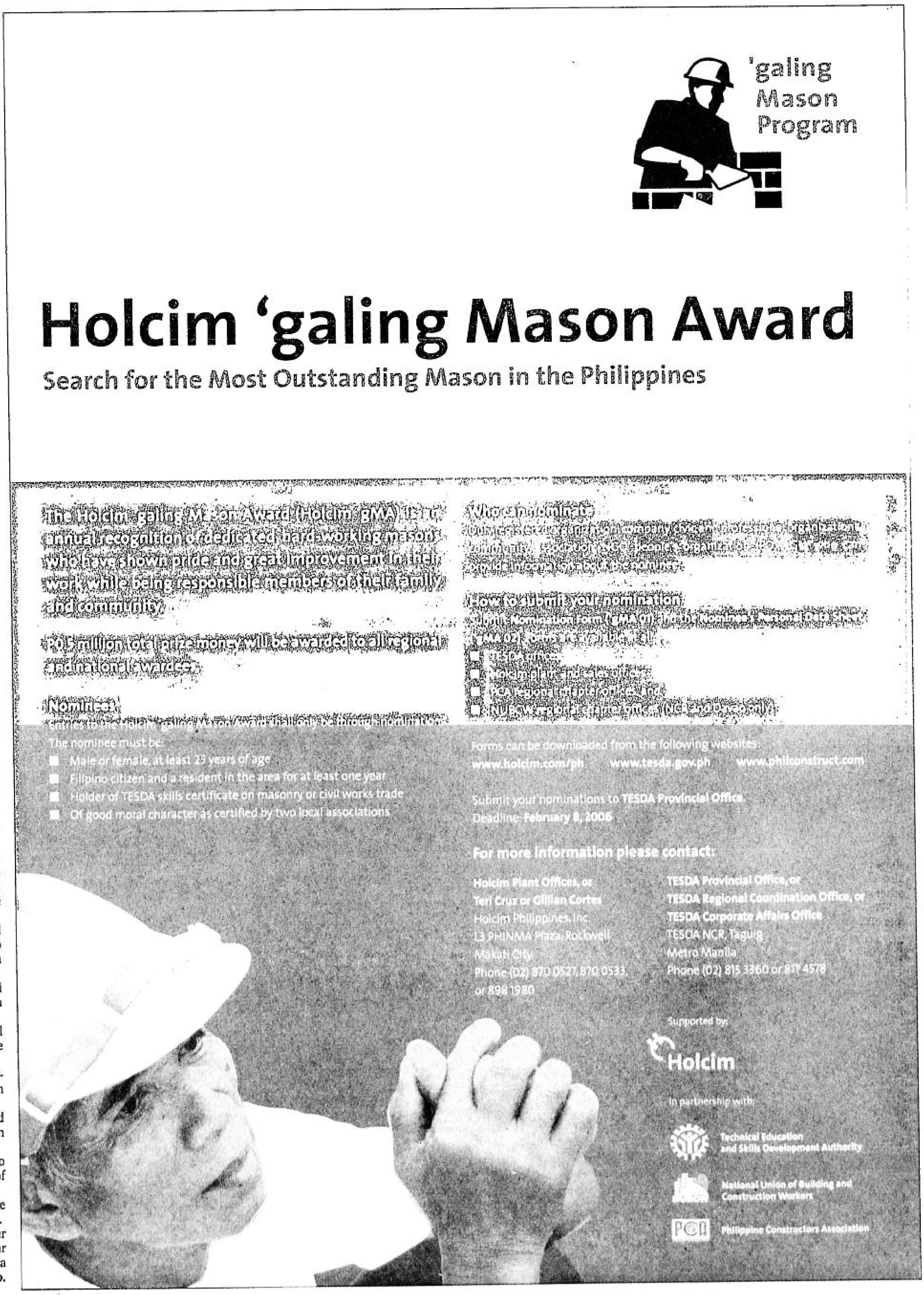
The $300 million investment was committed by ATI when it signed the contract with the PPA years ago.

Of the $130 million that ATI was supposed to invest now, Sevilla said about $6 million had been delivered.

Sevilla said the company had promised to invest some more by 2008 if the volume of business within South Harbor improves.

Santos said the board had not discussed the extension of ATI's contract by another 25 years.

ATI's competitor, International Container Terminal Services Inc. had secured a 25-year extension of its contract at the Port of Manila from the PPA. *Clarissa S. Batino.*



'galing Mason Program

Holcim 'galing Mason Award

Search for the Most Outstanding Mason in the Philippines

The Holcim 'galing Mason Award (Holcim 'gMA) is an annual recognition of dedicated hard-working masons who have shown pride and great improvement in their work while being responsible members of their family and community.

P0.5 million total prize money will be awarded to all regional and national awardees.

Nominees

Entries to the Holcim 'galing Mason Award shall only be through nomination.

The nominee must be:

- Male or female, at least 25 years of age
- Filipino citizen and a resident in the area for at least one year
- Holder of TESDA skills certificate on masonry or civil works trade
- Of good moral character as certified by two local associations

Who can nominate

[illegible]

How to submit your nomination

[illegible]

- TESDA offices
- Holcim plant and sales offices
- PCA regional chapter offices [illegible]
- NUBCW regional chapter offices [illegible]

Forms can be downloaded from the following websites:
www.holcim.com/ph www.tesda.gov.ph www.philconstruct.com

Submit your nominations to **TESDA Provincial Office**.
Deadline: **February 8, 2006**

For more information please contact:

Holcim Plant Offices, or
Teri Cruz or Gillian Cortes
Holcim Philippines, Inc.
L3 PHINMA Plaza, Rockwell
Makati City
Phone (02) 870 0527, 870 0533,
or 898 1980

TESDA Provincial Office, or
TESDA Regional Coordination Office, or
TESDA Corporate Affairs Office
TESDA NCR, Taguig
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Phone (02) 815 3360 or 817 4578

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QUEZON CITY

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INTRAMUROS 09153709774

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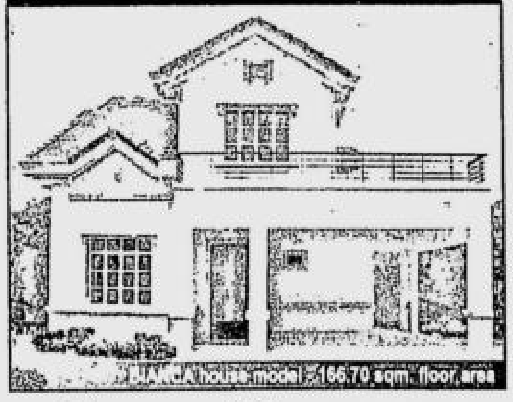

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Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Professional Regulation Commission, with address at P. Paredes cor. N. Reyes St. (formerly Morayta St.) Sampaloc, Manila, hereby invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Items to Bid for 2006 requirements	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Venue of Pre-bid Conference	Date/Venue of Submission and Opening of Bids	Non-Refundable Fee
Security Services	**P7,182,180.00** For 48 Guards	December 7, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 21, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P5,000.00
Printing and Supply of Professional Identification Cards (PRC ID Cards)	**P6,499,500.00** At P30.00 per card (For a minimum of 216,650 pieces)	December 7, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 21, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P5,000.00
Printing and Supply of Computerized Application Forms (CAFs)	**P502,500.00** At P3.35 per sheet Of Bookpaper (For a minimum of 150,500 sheets	December 8, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 22, 2005 At 10:00 a.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P1,000.00
Printing and Supply of OMR ID/Answer Sheets	**P5,046,775.00** At P3.35 per sheet of OCR paper (For a minimum of 1,506,500 sheets)	December 8, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	December 22, 2005 At 2:00 p.m. PRC Conference Rm. 2nd Floor, Main Bldg.	P5,00000

Only bidders registered with the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) for procurement of goods and services shall be allowed to participate in the bidding process. Bidders may obtain the list of the registration requirements for procurement of goods and services at the Office of the BAC Chairman, Commissioner Renato B. Valdecantos, 2nd Floor, PRC Main Bldg., starting on November 24, 2005. Start of the Issuance of Certification of Registration to bidders shall be on December 7, 2005.

Bid forms and the Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained by interested bidders starting on November 30, 2005 from the Office of the BAC Chairman.

The PRC Bids and Awards Committee shall screen the eligibility of prospective bidders based on their compliance with the eligibility requirements on a pass/fail basis, evaluate, and post-qualify bids based on a set of criteria of responsiveness to the Commission's need.

All particulars relative to the registration, eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids, and awards of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act (GPRA), and its implementing rules and regulations.

The Commission reserves the right to verify the veracity of any information or authenticity of any document submitted in the course of bidding and to undertake ocular inspection of offices and facilities of bidders. It likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the PRC. It shall not assume any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bid, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) LEONOR T. ROSERO
Chairperson

(PDI–Nov. 24 & Dec. 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested bidders/suppliers to the bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

ITEMS	ABC	Pre-bid Conference (Reception Hall)	Bid Opening (Reception Hall)
1. Foodstuffs	P 3,374,938.30	Nov. 30, 2005 (2:00 pm)	Dec. 12, 2005 (2:00 pm)
2. Equipment Rental - Hematology Analyzer - Immunology Machine - Chemistry Analyzer	 5,100,000.00 4,627,488.00 4,200,000.00	Nov. 30, 2005 (3:00 pm)	Dec. 14, 2005 (3:00 pm)
3. Medical Supplies Dermatological/Disinfectant	5,287,147.00 424,845.00	Dec. 1, 2005 (2:00 pm)	Dec. 15, 2005 (2:00 pm)
4. Laboratory Supplies Radiology/Ultrasound	1,773,156.00 213,636.00	Dec. 1, 2005 (2:00 pm)	Dec. 16, 2005 (2:00 pm)
5. Linen & Laundry Supplies Miscellaneous	253,940.00 155,000.00	Dec. 1, 2005 (2:00 pm)	Dec. 16, 2005 (3:30 pm)
6. Drugs and Medicines	25,073,764.00	Dec. 2, 2005 (2:00 pm)	Dec. 19, 2005 (2:00 pm)
7. Laundry Services	2,500,000.00	Dec. 5, 2005 (2:00 pm)	Dec. 19, 2005 (9:00 am)
8. Equipment Suction Machine, Portable (5 units) Suction Machine w/ trolley (2 units) Infusion Pump (8 units) LCD Projector, XGA Resolution (1 unit) Bassinets w/ mattress (38 units) ECG machine (1 unit) Laryngoscope, fiber optic, Pedia (6 units) Electrocautery, Adult (1 unit) Computer w/ complete accessories (3) Laptop (XGA) (1 unit) Laptop Computer (notebook) (1 unit) Computer w/out printer, Monitor 17" colored, CPU Pentium IV (1 unit) LCD Multimedia Projector 5 in 1 (1 unit)	 P 28,500.00/unit 38,000.00/unit 22,950.00/unit 115,000.00/unit 10,000.00/unit 160,000.00/unit 30,000.00/unit 280,000.00/unit 65,000.00/unit 90,000.00/unit 110,000.00/unit 50,000.00/unit 350,000.00/unit	Dec. 8, 2005 (2:00 pm)	Dec. 19, 2005 (10:00 am)

Bid documents and eligibility requirements may be secured from the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon payment of corresponding fee which is non-refundable. For inquiries, contact tel. nos. 735-71-44, 734-55-61 loc. 109.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waived any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MARIE THERESE A. PACABIS
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 17 & 24, 2005)

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
Ang Bangkong May Damdaming-Bayan
1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.	Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2005-334	1 lot Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Applicable Labor and Materials of Two (2) units - 400 KVA, Three-Phase 0.8 P.F., 1800 RPM, 240 VAC Brand New Diesel Generating Units at LANDBANK-West Avenue Branch and Back-Up Offices.	P 6,720,000.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements are scheduled on December 7, 2005 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Division of the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, upon **payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **November 25, 2005** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations** (IRR).

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Bank.

COMMITTEE ON BIDS AND AWARDS

(PDI–Nov. 17 & 24, 2005)

Manila Memorial Park
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(632) 815-1875 to 80
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OBITUARIES

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Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

“...absent from the body to be present with the Lord.”

2 Corinthians 5:8

Remedios Ramos Chanco

Born in Sta. Cruz, Laguna on May 26, 1915

Her bereaved children, **Norman** and **Betsy Martin, Boy** and **Del Chanco**; grandchildren **Mendel** and **Lee Manalaysay, Cristy Martin, Bryan** and **Nel Chanco, Benedict Chanco**; and great grandchildren: **Iñigo, Lance**, and **Lea**.

Her remains lie in state at the Sto. Rosario Village Chapel, Sto. Rosario Village, Baritan, Malabon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 26, 2005 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Caloocan City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

FELICIANO V. CARIÑO, Ph.D.

Died in the Grace of the Lord in Hong Kong on November 17, 2005.

Survived by his wife **Theresa**; daughter **Suyin**; son-in-law **PJ Enriquez**; granddaughter **Justine**; sisters **Leticia C. Rimorin** and **Erlinda C. de los Reyes**; and brother **Benjamin**.

He will lie in state at the Church of the Risen Lord (UP Protestant Chapel), Diliman, Quezon City from Friday afternoon, November 25, 2005 and at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Parañaque City from Monday afternoon, November 28. The funeral service will be on Tuesday, November 29, at 8 a.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN

DEATH NOTICES

ANTONIO A. CORONADO

Joined his Creator last November 17, 2005.

There will be a necrological rite at 11:30 a.m. at the Antipolo City Hall.

Interment is at The Our Lady of Peace Funeral Gardens after the 2:00 p.m. Mass on November 25, 2005 at the Antipolo Cathedral, Antipolo City.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE : 897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-8425 (Telefax)
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MAKATI : 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW : 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL : 635-0219; 635-0220; 637-2008

For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:30

Our dearly beloved

MARIA YAMBAO SANTOS

of Jaen, Nueva Ecija

Peacefully joined our Creator on November 20, 2005 at the age of 85.

Her loving husband **HERMIE**; her children **ARLENE & ED, CARLOS & OLIVE**; her grandchildren **DARRYL, DUANE, CHRISTOPHER & DESTINE**; brother **PAT** and sister **VIBANG**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12-G Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 26, 2005 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE

CLASSIFIEDS

Vice President to lead opening rites of Ecop Jobs Fair

VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro will join the country's employers and key government officials during the ribbon-cutting ceremonies on Nov. 25 to kick off the Jobs Fair organized by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) in partnership with the Presidential Management System (PMS) and Pag-IBIG Fund. To be held at the Philippine Trade and Training Center (PTTC), the upcoming Jobs Fair is a joint effort of the private sector and government in the light of the President's 10-point socioeconomic program, principally to generate up to 10 million jobs in the country for six years. Thousands of job openings will be up for grabs as call centers, engineering and management consultancy firms as well as firms engaged in manufacturing and services participate in the Jobs Fair.

The best companies need the best people.

visit us at:
www.jobmarketonline.com

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DND-Proper Procurement of Goods & Services)

1. The Department of National Defense, through DND-Proper Bid and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

A. Various Supplies/Materials for Re-Bidding

	Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
1.	Other Supplies	Loyalty ring for OSND Personnel	Php 485,100.00
2.	Construction Supplies	Assorted Construction Supplies for OSND	335,547.19
3.	Vehicle Spare Parts	Assorted Vehicle Spare Parts for OSND	756,706.87
4.	Aircon Supplies	Assorted Aircon Supplies for OSND	259,533.00
5.	Building & Other Structure Maintenance	Repair/Maintenance of OSND Step-up Transformer for Deepwell	150,000.00
6.	Repair Equipment	Repair of Video Reversing Screen	75,000.00
		TOTAL	Php 2,061,887.06

B. General Services for CY-2006

	Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
1.	Pest Control	Pest Control services for DND Bldg. & Annexes	Php 693,693.00
2.	Janitorial Services	Janitorial services for DND Bldg. & Annexes	4,300,000.00
3.	Purified Drinking Water	Delivery of Purified Drinking Water for DND employees	751,322.88
4.	Subscription Expenses	Subscription of foreign magazines and local newspapers for OSND offices	1,177,000.00
5.	Aircon Maintenance	General Cleaning of Airconditioners	1,197,916.50
6.	Photocopying Services	Photocopying services for OSND offices	4,000,000.00
		TOTAL	Php 12,119,932.38

II The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents A. Various Supplies/Materials for Re-bidding B. General Services for Cy-2006	Procurement Branch, OAS Bldg., DND	24 Nov – 02 Dec 2005 29 Nov – 18 Dec 2005	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference A. Various Supplies/Materials for Re-bidding B. General Services for CY-2006	OAS Annex Bldg.	– None – 05 December 2005	9:00 AM – 12:00 NN
Deadline for Submission / Opening of Bids A. Various Supplies/Materials for Re-bidding B. General Services for CY-2006	OAS Annex Bldg.	06 December 2005 19 December 2005	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount as indicated below to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Tel No 911-8118:

PROJECT	COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
A. Various Supplies/Materials	
1. Other Supplies	Php 500 00
2. Construction Supplies	300 00
3. Vehicle Spare Parts	800 00
4. Aircon Supplies	200 00
5. Building & Other Structure Maintenance	100 00
6 Repair of Equipment	100 00
B. Services	
1. Pest Control	Php 700 00
2. Janitorial Services	4,300 00
3. Purified Dringking Water	800 00
4. Subscription Expenses	1,200 00
5. Aircon Maintenance	1,200 00
6. Photocopying Services	4,000 00

Bidders who have secured the bidding documents in the previous bidding in any of the projects under "A" may no longer secure new bidding documents but they are encouraged to get updates from the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A)

V. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or suppliers who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid

VII The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC)

VIII The Invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Services website at www procurementservice org . and the DND website, in accordance with the IRR-A of R.A 9184, Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND)

(Sgd.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI - Nov. 24 & Dec. 1, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Privatization and Management Office ("PMO"), through its Bids and Awards Committee ("PMO-BAC"), intends to procure the services of a financial advisor ("FA") in connection with the privatization of the interests of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines ("GRP") in **Radio Philippines Network, Inc. ("RPN-9") and Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation ("IBC-13")** under a success fee arrangement.

The Approved Budget for the Contract ("ABC") is Six Million Pesos (P6,000,000.00), to be paid by the PMO and chargeable against the success fee which shall not exceed one a half percent (1.5%) of the total cash proceeds due the GRP from each privatization of GRP's interests in RPN-9 and IBC-13.

The fees for the FA shall be payable as follows:

PHASE	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	FEES
I – Valuation	Preparation of valuation and appraisal report, information memorandum and privatization plan	Not to exceed Six Million Pesos (P6,000,000.00)
II – Implementation	Implementation of the privatization plan, as approved by the Privatization Council	Not to exceed 1.5% of the total cash proceeds due GRP, less the fee paid for the Valuation Phase

2. The PMO now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent ("LOIs") from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for Financial Advisory Services. Interested FAs must submit their LOIs on or before 30 November 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. by hand, to the address below and secure the Eligibility Documents and Shortlisting Requirements therefrom for a minimal fee of P1,000.00.

Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents and Short Listing Requirements shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on 2 December 2005; 9:30 a.m. at the 6th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Only those found eligible shall be considered for short listing and only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.

3. The PMO-BAC shall draw up the short list of FAs from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 ("RA 9184") and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A ("IRR-A"). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of seven (7) FAs. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

a. 40% – General experience of the FA, considering both the overall experience of the firm and the individual experience of the principal and key staff, including relevant experience of the principal and key staff from previous employment;
b. 20% – Privatization experience of the FA;
c. 20% – Qualifications of personnel who may be assigned to the project;
d. 10% – Current workload of personnel who may be assigned to the project; and
e. 10% – Dealings of the FA with the GRP.

4. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of RA 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of RA 9184, only bids from shortlisted FAs will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents to be obtained from the PMO. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

The PMO-BAC shall evaluate bids using the ***Quality-Cost Based Evaluation*** procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders to be obtained from the PMO.

5. Interested FAs may obtain the eligibility and short listing requirements, and the other bidding documents, from the PMO-BAC at the address given below from Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The deadline for submission of bids from the shortlisted FAs shall be on 21 December 2005, 9:30 a.m.

6. The PMO/PMO-BAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
4th Floor, 104 Gamboa Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos.: 893-1640 / 893-7096 / 817-1103 / 892-2145
Fax No.: 893-2290
Website : www.pmo.gov.ph

(Sgd.) CRISANTA S. LEGASPI
Chairperson, PMO-BAC

(PDI-Nov. 17 & 24, 2005)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

South Luzon Operation and Maintenance

Tel. No.: (02) 5206776; (02) 9814595/9814539/9814576/
9814577/9814578 LOC. 4002: (049) 4114500 LOC. 4002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. TRANSCO 2005-12D

The National Transmission Corporation, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder requirements:

SCHEDULE	PR NUMBER	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
A1	PSMD-N-05-135	SUBSTATION DATA ACQUISITION MONITORING/COMMUNICATION PROCESSOR	2 PCS	3,600,000.00
A2	PSMD-N-05-157	MULTI-FUNCTION PRIMARY TEST SYSTEM	1 SET	7,500,000.00
A3	PSMD-N-05-152	PORTABLE POWER QUALITY ANALYZER	1 SET	2,500,000.00
A4	PSMDN-05-136	MULTI-PRODUCT CALIBRATION SYSTEM	1 SET	7,800,000.00
A5	3PSMDS-05-102	BUS BAR PROTECTION RELAY	6 SETS	8,520,000.00
A6	3PSMDS-05-103	SATELLITE SYNCHRONIZED CLOCK	4 SETS	1,960,000.00
A7	3PSMDS-05-105	SUBSTATION MAINTENANCE AND COMMISSIONING TEST EQUIPMENT	1 SET	5,000,000.00
A8	3PSMDS-05-108	OFFLINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	1 SET	3,280,000.00
A9	CAV-05-388	DIVERTER SWITCH	1 SET	6,985,000.00
A10	CAV-05-453	TRANSFORMER MONITORING AND CONTROL SYSTEM (TMCS)	2 SETS	9,800,000.00
A11	3LAG-05-11913	TRANSFORMER MONITORING & CONTROL SYSTEM (TMCS)	2 SETS	9,800,000.00
A12	3LAG-05-11731	PORTABLE POWER QUALITY AND DISTURBANCE ANALYZER INSTRUMENT	1 SET	4,600,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed items for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Date/Time (A1-A12)
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 25 - Dec. 09, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	November 30, 2005 9:00 AM
3. Opening of Bids	December 12, 2005 10:00 AM
4. Deadline for Submission of Bids at the OAVP Conference Room	December 12, 2005 10:00 AM

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 minimum, or 0.01% of the ABC whichever is higher, per bidding schedule to the National Transmission Corporation Cashier. Complete set of Bid Documents may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat/MMS, Administration Division, SLO&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

The National Transmission Corporation assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality or defect therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

TRANSCO-South Luzon's other requirements are posted at the DBM Website: www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) R. B. VERGARA
Chairman, BAC

(PDI--Nov. 24, 2005)

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given to the public that due to the death of our former Managing Partner, Atty. Benjamin D. Teodoro on October 14, 2005, our Firm,

GUZMAN, BOCALING & CO.

Certified Public Accountants

HAS BEEN DISSOLVED

and is in the process of

LIQUIDATING AND WINDING UP

its business affairs to culminate the Firm's existence. Notice is also given, that from hereon, new or future business and/or professional services engagement entered into by any of the remaining partners under the Firm's name, style and accreditations **have no force and effect and shall not be binding** upon the dissolved partnership.

(SGD.) **ABEDNEGO P. PELAYO**
Managing Partner

Republic of the Philippines
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Santos City

INVITATION TO ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of General Santos hereby invites interested bidders/suppliers registered by the G-EPS and accredited supplier of General Santos City for Eligibility and to Bid for the following projects/proposals.

BID NUMBER	PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
5CB-GSC-160	VARIOUS MEDICAL SUPPLIES	P5,411,759 90 (2005 Annual Budget)
5CB-GSC-161	VARIOUS DRUGS AND MEDICINES	P6,191,975.01 (2005 Annual Budget)
5CB-GSC-162	VARIOUS VEHICLES	P8,055,000.00 (2005 Annual Budget)

Pre-bidding Conference - December 2, 2005, 2:00 PM, BAC Office
Dropping of Bids - December 14, 2005, 1:30 PM, BAC Office
Opening of Bids - December 14, 2005, 2:00 PM, City Mayor's Conference Room

Interested Bidders may secure the bid documents upon payment from the BAC Secretariat, BAC Office, 2nd flr., City Hall Bldg., GSC (tel nos. 083-301-3834 and 083-301-0553). Details/specifications of above items were posted @ www.procurementservice.org and www.gensantos.gov.ph.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Requirements, Receipt and Opening of Bids, Evaluation, Post Qualification and Award shall be governed by R.A 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation.

The City Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract in situations set forth in Section 41 of the IRR-A of R.A. 9184.

(Sgd.) NAEL JOSEPH D. CRUSPERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Nov. 24 & Dec. 1, 2005)

DOLE LABOR OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas (2nd from left) of the Department of Labor and Employment introduces to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (center) two of the foreign employers (in suit) who arrived recently in Manila to participate in the DOLE Labor Opportunities Program, which was highlighted by a two-day jobs fair at the Forum of the Philippine International Convention Center. A job applicant (partly hidden at the right) joined in the round-table discussion after she was successfully hired on the spot. Many job seekers who visited the fair were hired on the spot, mostly for overseas placement.

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : November 16, 2005
Loan No.: MIYAZAWA
Contract No.: Sp05.NPS1TLSS.Vt-0052

1. The *National Power Corporation (NPC)* has received a loan from the *Miyazawa Funds* for *Negros-Panay Interconnection Project* (Stage 1) and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract *Survey, Design, Supply of Materials/Equipment and Erection/Installation and Commissioning of Negros-Panay (Stage 1 – OHTL & S/S) Project.*
2. The *National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO)*, administering the implementation of the said project, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the:

   Survey, Design, Supply of Materials/Equipment and Erection/Installation and Commissioning of Negros-Panay (Stage 1 – OHTL & S/S) Project.
3. Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect and acquire the bidding documents at the *Office of the Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department, Ground Floor, Power Center, National Transmission Corporation, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Telephone No.: 981-2212, 981-2213, 981-4652; Telefax No.: 921-23-08.*
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidders starting November 16, 2005 upon submission of a written application to the above office, and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (PHP25,000.00).*
5. A two-envelope bidding procedure will be adopted. Bidders are to submit simultaneously two (2)-sealed envelopes, one (1) containing the technical proposal and one (1) containing the price proposal. Initially only the technical proposals will be opened. Technical proposals which are submitted by non-qualified bidders of which are not substantially responsive will be rejected. The substantially responsive technical proposals that have been submitted by qualified bidders are discussed with the bidders and the bidders are requested for full compliance. The bidders may or may not submit a supplementary price proposal, which contain the changes in price resulting from the discussed changes in the technical proposals. The original price proposal and the supplementary price proposal are opened simultaneously in public.
6. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of:

   One Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty US Dollars (US$134,750.00).

   The bid security must be included in the technical proposal.

   Pre-bid Conference shall be conducted on **December 16, 2005.**

   The deadline for the submission of bids will be on **January 16, 2006 at 1:30 P.M.** at the aforementioned address. Late submissions will be rejected.
7. The technical proposals together with the bid security will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
8. The price proposals will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address to be advised by the Employer after approval of the evaluation of the technical proposals.
9. The total contract duration for the project is **450 calendar days.**
10. TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any or all Bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
11. All communications shall be addressed to the Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee at aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Nov. 17 & 24, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
National Food Authority
Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Tokens for the Year 2005 NFA Service Awardees

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2005 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P487,630.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2005 service awardees.*

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of wristwatches for 2005 NFA service awardees.* Delivery is required within 30 days from receipt of Purchase Order. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 29, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* on December 12, 2005 from 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *December 12, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Person - Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address - 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone No. - 632) 712-0454
e-mail address - vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Fax No. - (632) 712-0454
Website - www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – November 24, 2005)

PIRS holds 4th Quarter Learning Session

THE PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL Relations Society (PIRS) will hold its 4th Quarter Learning Session on Nov. 29 at the U.P. School of Labor and Industrial Relations, Bonifacio Hall, Diliman, Quezon City. Theme of the forum is "An Update on the State of Philippine Labor/Industrial Relations". Resource speakers are DOLE-NCMB executive director Hans Leo J. Cacdac and NLRC commissioner Tito F. Genilo. All HR and IR practitioners from employer and labor sectors are invited. For registration or inquiry, please contact the PIRS Secretariat at 942-7833 (Eileen); 0917-8917134 (Letty), or through Email: pirs_forum@yahoo.com.

Republic of the Philippines
National Food Authority
Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

For the Supply and Delivery of 45 units Asian Utility Vehicles

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2005 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P36,000,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the supply and delivery of forty-five (45) units Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV)*, as follows:

Lot	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Any Wagon Type completely brand new, powered by 4-cylinder diesel engine with displacement not more than 2,500 cc. – with dual aircon, AM/FM radio and CD player – seating capacity of 8-10 persons – manual transmission, 5 speed with one (1) reverse	36	27,900,000.00
2	Any Wagon Type completely brand new, powered by 4-cylinder diesel engine with displacement not more than 2,500 cc. – with dual aircon, AM/FM radio and CD player – seating capacity of 8-10 persons – manual transmission, 5 speed – Keyless entry – All power – With alarm	9	8,100,000.00
	TOTAL		36,000,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of 45 units Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV).* Delivery is required within 30 days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

Prospective bidders who secured the bidding documents for the failed bidding of November 16, 2005 are no longer required to pay anew the non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 for the bid documents.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on ***November 29, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the ***NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*** on December 12, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *December 12, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity - NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Person - Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address - 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone No. - (632) 712-3341 loc. 8923 or 8520
e-mail address - vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Fax No. - (632) 712-0454
Website - www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – November 24, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE OF ANTIQUE
Sibalom, Antique
Tel. Nos. (036) 543-7956, 543-5626
Telefax No.: (036) 543-8161
E-mail: psca@winys.com.ph

THE SEARCH COMMITTEE OF THE POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE ANTIQUE (PSCA) PRESIDENCY

Announces the opening of the

SEARCH FOR PSCA PRESIDENT

Minimum Qualifications:

1. Must be a natural born Filipino citizen;
2. Preferably a holder of any earned doctoral degrees;
3. Preferably not more than sixty years of age on the date of application;
4. Must have five (5) years of relevant managerial and administrative experience,
5. Must submit a certification of full disclosure of pending criminal or administrative cases that he has not been convicted by final judgment.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, applicants must submit the following documentary requirements in five (5) copies:

1. Letter of application,
2. Detailed Curriculum vitaé and certified supporting documents;
3. Proposed Mission, Vision and Thrust for the College;
4. Medical Certificate

Interested applicants are requested to submit the requirements not later than 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon on January 7, 2006 to the following:

HJA. LUNINGNING MISUAREZ-UMAR
Commissioner, Commission on Higher Education
Chair, PSCA-Board of Trustees
5th Floor, DAP Building
Ortigas Center, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 6874647
Telefax No. (02) 9100824

DR. ISABELA L. MAHLER
CHED Director IV, Region VI
Chairperson, Search Committee for PSCA Presidency
Washington St., Jaro, Iloilo City
Tel. Nos. (033) 320-69-76 or (033) 508-88-52

LOURDES M. PECHAYCO
Secretariat, Search Committee for PSCA Presidency
Office of the Board Secretary
Polytechnic State College of Antique
Sibalom, Antique
Tel. Nos. (036) 543-8161 loc. 110

To our valued clients:

Please be informed that the following Official Receipts have been reported missing, and are therefore rendered null and void by Pru Life UK:

0545498 / 0545499 / 0545500

Should anyone have information on the missing ORs, please call telephone numbers 884 5541, 884 5542 and 884 5543

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ERRATUM

In the second paragraph of the Invitation for Bids of **CITY OF HIMAMAYLAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL** published in the Classified Section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer last November 20, 2005, the Province of Negros Occidental was erroneously printed as Negros Oriental.

Our apologies.

Hot Loops supports education through Pathways

HOT LOOPS DONUTS, JG SUMMIT Holdings Inc's (JGSHI) latest business venture, has partnered with Ateneo de Manila's Pathways to Higher Education to assist financially underprivileged students in their quest for higher learning.

"Though Hot Loops is only less than a year old, we already feel strongly about participating in noteworthy projects," said Hot Loops GM Bobby Go. "Supporting education and the development of future leaders is definitely a priority for us in keeping with our thrust of social responsibility." Go added, "And we laud Pathways' efforts to help these youngsters attain a college education by providing them with much-needed financial and academic help."

Pathways is an endeavor born from the strategic partnership of two distinguished institutions, the Ford Foundation and the Ateneo de Manila University. The undertaking involves not only financial support to students, but also assistance in academic preparation for college, educational resources, and personality enhancement. Pathways' wholistic formation programs also include livelihood and career development seminars for parents.

Pathways also engages parents in viable livelihood programs to help augment family income. In addition, the individual scholar and the participant family will also be given values orientation seminars, allowing them to grasp and thus concretize what they are striving for.

Working students too are given priority through a relevant modular curriculum designed to give them all opportunities to complete their education.

High school students are strongly encouraged to attend half-day classes in English and Mathematics every Saturday conducted by trained volunteers. The organization has developed a curriculum based on the matrix of learning competencies prescribed by the Department of Education (DepEd) and supplemented by the curriculum of Ateneo de Manila High School.

These programs are being offered all over the country with the help of the organization's school affiliates including University of San Carlos (Cebu), Siliman University (Dumaguete), West Visayas State University and all their satellite campuses ((Iloilo City) and Xavier University (Cagayan de Oro).

Hot Loops Donuts will provide free snacks to Pathways participants, volunteers and teachers during selected special events and tutorial sessions.

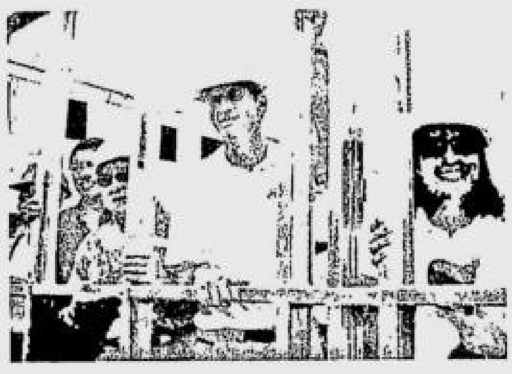
BMW PRESTIGE SPONSORS 4TH AIM MASTERS GOLF TOURNAMENT

BMW Prestige recently formalized its support for the 4th Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Masters Golf Tournament. Representing BMW Prestige and the Alumni Association of AIM (AAAIM) in the contract signing were (from left) Maricar Parco, VP for marketing of BMW; Alex Tanwangco, chair of AAAIM; and Rhia Ramirez, executive director of AAAIM. The 4th AIM Masters Golf Tournament, which will be on Nov. 25, Friday at the Riviera Golf and Country Club, is an annual event participated by CEO's, entrepreneurs, development managers from among its roster of AIM alumni as well as friends of the alumni. For details on how to join, call 750-6575 or 892-4011 loc. 2103-2106 or log on to www.aimalumniphil.org.

FEDEX 12 NOON DELIVERY IN MANILA AREAS

FedEx Express (FedEx), the world's largest express transportation company, recently announced that customers in the city of Manila will enjoy the added advantage of receiving their shipments before 12 noon. These areas include Binondo, Intramuros, Malate, Paco, Pandacan, the Port area, Quiapo, Sampaloc, San Andres Bukid, San Miguel, San Nicolas, Sta. Ana, Sta. Cruz, Sta. Mesa and Tondo. This service enhancement is in line with FedEx's commitment to support the diverse and ever-changing needs of its customers. In addition, Manila customers can also schedule pick-ups until 7 p.m., and/or drop off packages at FedEx World Service Stations or retail outlets until 8 p.m. Other cities in which customers can also receive shipments before 12 noon include: Pasig, Olongapo, Angeles, and the Subic Bay Freeport Zone. For inquiries or to schedule pick-ups, customers can dial FedEx's 24-hour hotline at (02) 855-8484 or visit the FedEx website at www.fedex.com.ph.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY INTERNATIONAL CEO VISITS THE PHILIPPINES



Habitat for Humanity International's new CEO Jonathan Reckford (middle), flanked by Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza and Habitat for Humanity-Philippines trustee Margarita Moran-Floirendo, helped raise the steel frame for a house wall at Bagong Buhay Village in Baseco Compound, Port Area, Manila. Reckford visited the Philippines from Nov. 7 to 9 as part of his tour of successful Habitat builds in Asia. Through an initiative of the city government of Manila, Habitat has committed to build a total of 1,000 houses in Baseco, site of a fire that destroyed thousands of homes in 2004.

DUGONG BOMBO FOSTERS VOLUNTEERISM

Last Nov. 5, thousands of prospective blood donors simultaneously trooped to 26 areas nationwide with one objective in mind - to answer to the call of Project 'Dugong Bombo', of Bombo Radyo Phils and donate blood for those in need especially the under-privileged. At the end of the day 3,200 successful donors was recorded and verified by the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC). A total of 1.4 million cc of blood was raised from different parts of the country where there are Star FM and Bombo Radyo stations. 1.4 million cc is equivalent to eight (8) drums of blood or 240 cases of litro softdrinks. Photo shows PNRC Chair Richard J. Gordon joining Bombo Radyo Phils executives Orly Pangcog (center) senior area manager and George B. Castro (right), chair - Dugong Bombo 2005, in supervising Dugong Bombo in Metro Manila. The blood-letting project was held simultaneously in 26 areas nationwide.

DREAM SATELLITE TV OFFERS THE CATHOLIC CHANNEL

Dream Satellite TV and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Episcopal Commission for Social Communications and Media entered an agreement to provide 'The Catholic Channel'. Signing the contract on behalf of Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc (PMSI), operator of Dream Satellite TV was president and COO Manuel F. Abellada, and for the CBCP was Bishop Jesus A. Abrera, chair, ECSCM witnessed by Antonio O. Cojuangco and Fr. James Reuter, S.J.

Gabay sa Kalusugan bags CMMA award for Best Educational Radio Program

IT TAKES A LOT OF HEART AND UNQUEStionable dedication for Dr. Gary Sy to fulfill his own personal social responsibility for the elderly. His untiring service to the senior members of society led him to greater challenges, which he met with optimism and enthusiasm.

All the hard work paid off when the clergy recognized all his efforts by honoring him and his radio program with the Best Educational Program on Radio during the recently held Catholic Mass Media Awards.

"Gabay sa Kalusugan" is a virtually young member of dzMM but its host, Dr. Sy, has been a veteran in giving on-air medical advice to listeners. The show's title is a take-off from the book he authored.

A few years back, one of his patients happened to be a team leader of dzRH's outreach program called Operation Tulong. The person was Romy de Guzman. De Guzman served as the link which paved the way for Dr. Sy's entry to broadcast media. Andy Verde, an anchor of the radio station, saw the way the doctor deals with his patients. Dr. Sy makes it a point that he explains to his patients in the easiest possible terms what ails them and what can be done to cure them.

Verde felt that the doctor could be of greater help to a larger number of people through the airwaves. The first invitation to guest on his radio program led to regular guestings.

'GABAY sa Kalusugan' host Dr. Gary Sy.

When the book "Gabay sa Kalusugan" was launched, people from dzMM envisioned that an educational health program can be one way to reach out to people especially the elderly. It was in February 15, 2004 that Peter Musngi, vice president for Manila Radio Division of dzMM of ABS-CBN, and fellow broadcaster Angelo Palmones, station manager of dzMM invited Dr. Sy to host "Gabay sa Kalusugan," the radio program.

Aside from this, Dr. Sy also answers questions in other dzMM programs of Winnie Cordero, Ariel Ureta, Karen Davila and Vic Lima.

The show focuses not only on how to treat certain ailments but it also teaches how to prevent them, more than anything else. It also constantly reminds people how to live a better life and how to take care of their well being.

Dr. Sy believes in that undying cliché of "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound a cure," only, he does it with a more personal touch.

Bits Clips

It's a CelebraXSion

IT'S HOMECOMING TIME again for all Xavier School alumni and all are invited to this year's CelebraXSion set on Nov. 26, Saturday, at the school's newly opened Fr. Rafael Cortina Sports Center. The evening's program, highlighted by performances by Mocha and the Spin Art band, Luane Dy, it will be emceed by Myx VJ Iya Villania together with Xavier alumnus Jaime Garchitorena ('85). The fun-filled night, catered by crowd-favorite North Park, will climax with the raffle of a brand new Toyota Innova as the grand prize.

'Call Center in a Box'

THE CONTACT CENTER ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (CCAP) is holding a comprehensive primer for call center startups entitled, "Call Center in a Box", this Nov. 24, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hotel Intercontinental Skytop in Makati City. Center in a Box". Interested parties may call the CCAP Secretariat at tel. nos. (632) 8864421 or (632) 889-7763, or e-mail admin@mediafocus.com.ph.

Ateneo GS '65 homecoming

THE ATENEO DE MANILA GRADE SCHOOL CLASS of 1965 will be holding their alumni homecoming and reunion this Saturday, Nov. 26, at the Ateneo Grade School Campus, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. This will be in celebration of the Class' 40th year Anniversary and to jumpstart preparations for the batch's 50th Golden Jubilee in 2015. The activities will begin with registration at 2 p.m. followed by a tour of the grade school grounds at 3 p.m. A mass at the Grade School chapel follows at 5 p.m. The Dinner-dance will be at the Grade School cafeteria at 7 p.m. featuring the Flintstones band. Fellow Eagles of HS '69, College '73 and ME '74 are invited. For more information, please contact the Grade School Class '65 Secretariat c/o Cecile Geronimo at tel. no. 896-0497.

Midnight Job Madness

JOIN THE MOST HAPPENING RESUME PARTY ON Nov. 25 at the PeopleSupport Center, Ayala corner Senator Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati City. PeopleSupport opens its doors to interested applicants with the Midnight Job Madness from 5 p.m. until 12 midnight. Applicants will not only be processed on-the-spot, they will also be treated to snacks and refreshment and entertained by a live acoustic band and performances by in-house talents. For inquiries on the Job Madness and career opportunities, call 755-2600 or visit www.peoplesupport.com.

Bukas Palad holds concerts

THE BUKAS PALAD MUSIC MINISTRY INVITES you to journey with them and discover the songs in the silence, with the launch of their latest album, God of Silence. Bukas Palad will have a series of concerts to prepare for their 20th anniversary celebration in 2006. There will be concerts in Biñan, Laguna on Nov. 26; Saint Paul Manila on Dec. 10; Saint Paul Bocaue on Jan. 21; and in Tagaytay on Feb. 11. For more information about these concerts, and for updates regarding Bukas Palad's 20th anniversary, visit www.bukaspalad.com. God of Silence and other Bukas Palad albums are available at Tanging Yaman stores at the Ateneo de Manila University-Sonolux Bldg. and Loyola House of Studies, SM Megamall and Gateway Mall.

Dumex consumer lecture

DUMEX PHILS IS BRINGING IN DR. MARC Brackett, associate research director of the Health, Emotions and Behavior Laboratory of Yale University for a consumer lecture on balancing emotional and mental intelligence. Entitled "Life Skills for Your Child: IQ gets him through school, EI gets him through life", it will be held on Nov. 29, at the Manila Peninsula Hotel. Proceeds from the lecture will be used to support the Department of Social Welfare Development's (DSWD) feeding programs for indigent children. Interested parties may call the Dumex hotline at (632) 638-7799 during business hours for ticket inquiries and other information.

UP High Homecoming 2005

UP HIGH IS HOLDING A GENERAL ALUMNI Homecoming for all UP High School, UP Preparatory School, UP Elementary and UP Integrated School alumni on Dec. 10 at the UP High Grounds in Katipunan Avenue, Diliman. Batch 1980, this year's host will lead the alumni in honoring Batch 1955. For details, log on to www.lahat-kasama.com or call Vangie at 812-2859. For people interested in joining the bazaar call Liza Redoble at 0917-851-9548.

PEPA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

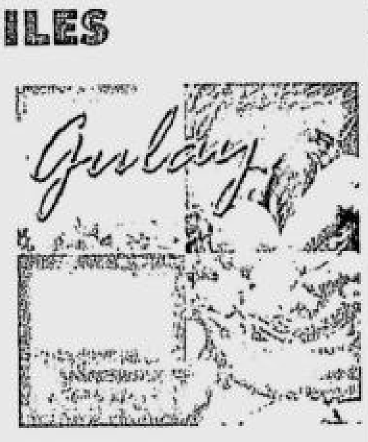
The newly elected officers of the Philippine Educational Publishers' Association (Pepa), the major association of educational publishers in the Philippines, got together in a breakfast meeting last Nov. 7 hosted by its first vice president, Nila V. Mata (SD Publications). In photo are: (seated from left) Mata; lawyer Agaton Sibal (Phoenix Publishing), president; lawyer Dominador Buhain (Rex Bookstore), president emeritus; Dr. Dada Boiser (SIBS Publishing), secretary; (standing from left) Edna Tupas (Academe Publishing), auditor; Marissa Enriguez (Marren Publishing), treasurer; Julius Magno (JTW Corp), PRO; and board members Max Gomez (C&E Publishing) and Ruben Milambiling (The Library Publishing). Not in photo is 2nd VP Jose Ma. Policarpio (Diwa Publishing). The election of officers was held last Oct. 8, while their induction-cum-Christmas party is set on Dec. 8 at the Vibal Publishing House social hall.

WHIRLPOOL ORGANIZES LIVELIHOOD SEMINAR

Whirlpool recently concluded a very successful 2-day seminar entitled 'Laundry Business Made Easy' at their main office in Quezon City. The seminar aimed to educate the participants with basic knowledge in setting up their own laundry shop business. Invited speakers eagerly shared their time and expertise with enthusiastic participants as they were all-ears for the topics covered in the seminar would help them get started with their laundry business endeavor. Whirlpool always looks for creative ways to give back to the people that helped them reach the top. Shown in photo is Loren Pelayo, assistant sales manager for institutional sales for Whirlpool Home Appliances talking to participants regarding business analysis of a laundry business and giving her insights on creative and effective marketing strategy to help keep the business profitable.

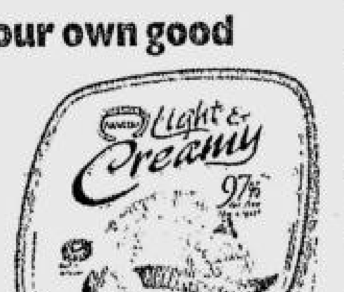
Product FILES

Filipino cuisine made vegetarian



GULAY, THE FILIPINO VEGETARIAN Recipebook series, transports you into the heart and soul of Pinoy vegetarian cooking. Well-written, well-researched and innovative. Nona Lema's ability to blend traditional Filipino cuisine with the principles of vegetarianism is unique and magical. The book offers easy and simple vegetarian recipes for all courses of a meal, from hot soup to creamy dessert. It offers more than just great food, it includes comprehensive information on the why's and how's of the vegetarian diet. It gives you the reasons why meat should be eliminated from your diet because of its many unhealthy effects on the body. Gulay is just what you will love in a vegetarian cookbook - an interesting insight which will inspire you to try becoming a vegetarian yourself. Gulay cookbook could change your life and make it better. Get your copy now. Available at National Bookstore and Powerbooks.

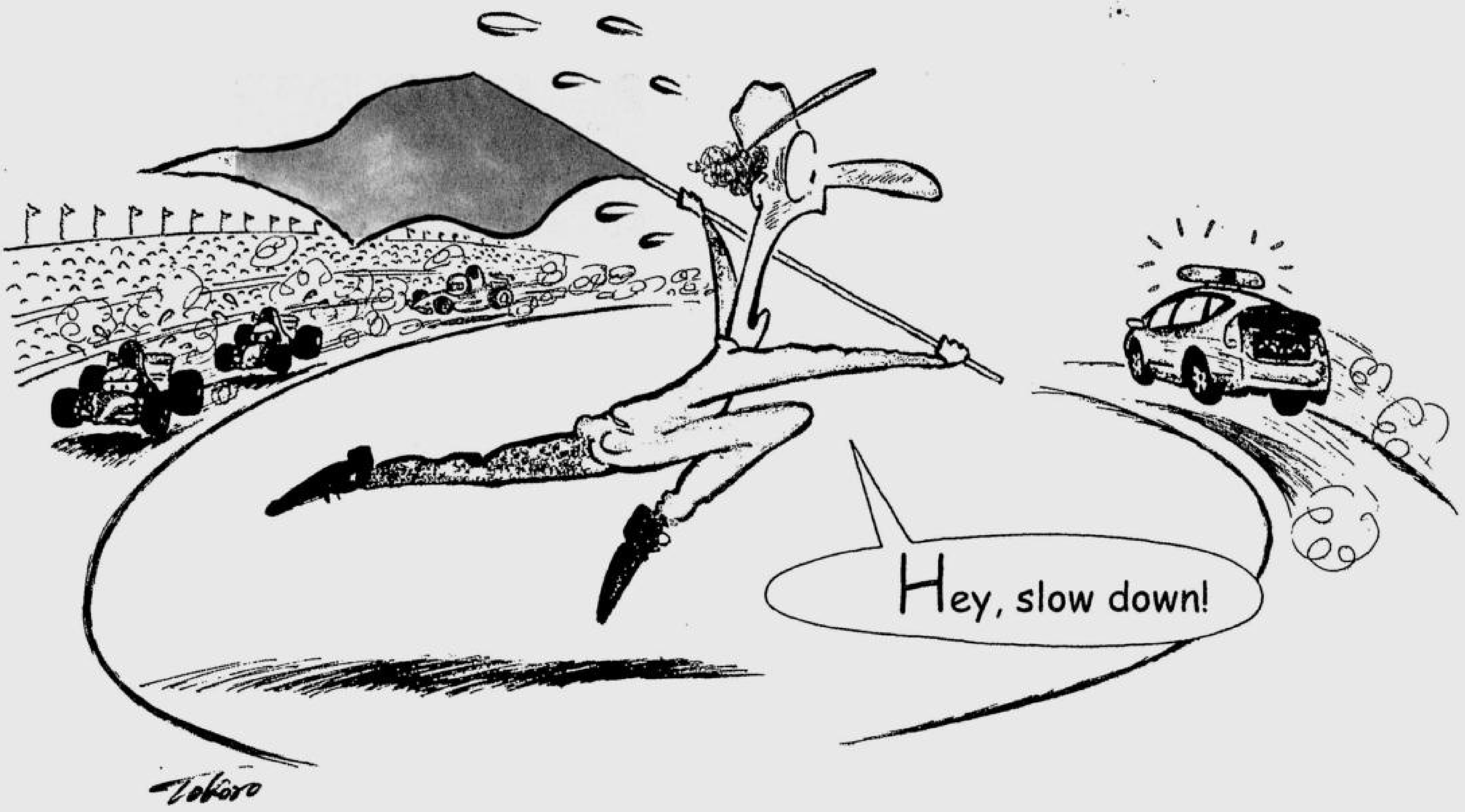
Ice cream made for your own good



SOUNDS GOOD TO BE TRUE? ICE cream is a well-known dessert that has been widely considered a temptation especially for weight watchers. But now, maintaining good health while still enjoying this great-tasting frozen treat is now possible without any guilt at all, with Nestlé Light and Creamy Ice Cream. It is easy on the calories but definitely not on the flavor. Healthful diet shouldn't mean bland and boring. Nestlé Light and Creamy Ice Cream is 97 percent fat-free and yet 100 percent delicious. Less fat intake means being able to maintain a leaner figure. Grab a tub of Nestlé Light and Creamy Ice Cream at your favorite supermarket and grocery stores nationwide.

Toyota Technology Journal

Hybrid Innovation 2

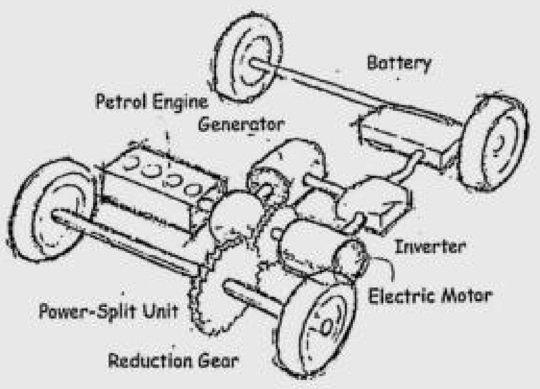


Exciting acceleration performance, delivered with amazing fuel economy

Toyota's revolutionary petrol-electric Prius sedan couples an incredibly powerful electric motor with a high-efficiency 1.5-litre petrol engine to achieve 0—100 kph in just 10.5 seconds. And it does it with 35.5 km/litre[*1] fuel efficiency that outstrips most 1-litre cars!

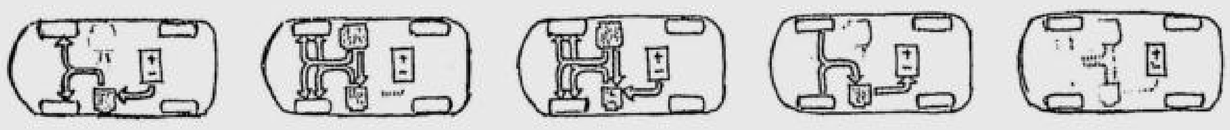
Toyota hybrid drive—the first production-model drive system to actually recycle energy—is the drive system of the future

Toyota hybrid drive assures powerful standing-starts, and power to spare for exhilarating low-speed and high-speed acceleration. What's more, it uses regenerative braking to convert and recycle kinetic energy into electrical energy that can be stored in the vehicle's battery for later use. It's this advanced hybrid technology that makes the Prius a truly exciting and environmentally friendly car to drive.



The Toyota Hybrid System in Action

- ▨ Petrol Engine
- ▨ Electric Motor



- **Standing Start & Low-Speed Acceleration** The electric motor draws power from the battery, assuring quick starts and superb low-speed acceleration.
- **Normal Driving** Power is provided by both the petrol engine and electric motor, continuously regulated to ensure maximum fuel efficiency.
- **Sudden Acceleration** The electric motor draws additional power from the battery to assure maximum power for exhilarating acceleration.
- **Braking & Deceleration** When the brakes are applied, the electric motor acts as a generator and converts kinetic energy into electricity that is used to charge the battery.
- **At Rest** When the vehicle is at rest, the engine and motor automatically switch off, reducing fuel consumption and emissions by eliminating wasteful engine idling.

Industry-leading fuel efficiency

2005 Mid-Size Car Fuel Economy Leaders[*2]

Model	MPG City	MPG Highway
Toyota Prius (Hybrid/AT)	**60**	**51**
Toyota Camry (A/T)	24	34
Mid-size Sedan A (A/T)	24	34
Mid-size Sedan B (A/T)	24	34
Mid-size Sedan C	24	34

Prius sedan production line

Car of the Year in both North America and Europe—a "world's first" achievement

When it comes to Car of the Year awards, Europe and North America don't often agree. But the Toyota Prius proved its universal appeal by being named 2004 North American Car of the Year and 2005 European Car of the Year. It's the first car in history to win Car of the Year awards on both continents!

[*1] Source: Japan Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport fuel economy tests
[*2] Source: US Environmental Agency and Department of Energy Fuel Economy Guide

Toyota hybrid technology — the new world standard for the automobile industry of tomorrow

TOYOTA
moving forward ▶

CHEESE-Y
entertaining /C2

LIFESTYLE

sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

A fish by any other name...

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

COULD YOU PLEASE EDUCATE ME ON THE Tagalog and English names of fish? I like following and reading recipes but I don't know how to buy the fish in the markets because the vendors don't know the English name nor do I know the Tagalog. Thank you and more power to you and Kitchen Rescue.

MRS. VASQUEZ

I know what you mean! You go to Arranque, Seaside or Farmers and, with utmost confidence, look *manong* straight in the eye and say, "*pabili po ng kilo ng* sweet lips *at isang kilo rin po ng* yellow tail fusilier!" Then he gives you that look of total disbelief, like you were some character straight out of Marvel Comics! Well, can't really blame him. After all, he doesn't know you just wanted *bakoko* and *dalagang bukid*!

Officially, those days are over! Here's your list. I asked Aqua Woman herself, Chingling Tanco of Mida Food Corp., to help me out here because no one knows best!

Mida is the source for all your fish and shellfish needs, from *tilapia* and *apahap* to Chilean sea bass, river cobbler and lobsters, down to soft shell crabs and bottled squid ink. If you have large requirements for anything and everything that swims, call 5240006 or e-mail midafood@mida-group.com.

Tagalog-English list

Alumahan—Long-jawed Mackerel

Apahap—A sea bass locally grown, also called *bulgan* in Negros, Barramundi in Australia

Asohos—Whiting

Bakoko—Sea bream, reddish variety or sweet lips, related to snapper but has smaller mouth

Bangus—Milkfish

Bisugo—Threadfin bream

Betilya—Emperor, related to snapper as white snapper, commonly sold as *maya-maya*

Biya—Goby

Blue marlin or royal blue marlin—Swordfish, though in many places in the Philippines, people will pass off any "billfish" as blue marlin. The best of the billfishes is the swordfish.

Chabita or tsabita—Moonfish

Dalagang bukid—Yellow tail fusilier

Danggit—Rabbit fish with white dots.

Dapa—Local name for both the Indian halibut and the tongue sole

Dilis—Anchovy

Dorado or kabayo— *Mahi-mahi* or dolphin fish. Not dolphin but dolphin fish.

Espada—Beltfish

Galunggong—Many different types: *galunggong babae*—hard-tail mackerel, *galunggong lalaki*—round scad or sometimes known in Japan as *muro-aji*

Hasa-hasa—Short-bodied mackerel

Isdang lawin—Flying fish

Japayuki—Mackerel

Kanduli—Salmon catfish

Labahita— Surgeonfish or unicorn fish

Lapu-lapu—Should be a grouper but many times when in fillet form, people pass off many different types of fish as grouper or *lapu-lapu* (e.g. parrot fish as *loro* or sweet lips as *bakoko*)

Local *gindara*—Oilfish or *escolar*. There are two types: the smooth-skinned and the rough-skinned. Rough-skin has a higher oil content. For both fish, the recommended serving portion is only 6 oz or about 150 g, otherwise, there is a tendency to develop the runs. Sometimes this fish is fondly described as the Xenical fish

Loro—Parrot fish (brightly colored fish with beak-like mouth)

Malasugui—Black or white marlin

Maming—Wrasse

Matang baka—Purse-eyed scad

Matumbok—Sailfish

Maya-maya—Snapper, normally it refers only to the red snapper but, in the Philippines, they extend this definition and call white snapper *maya-maya* when in fact it is an emperor or *betilya* passed off as a white "red snapper."

Pagi—Manta or sting ray

Palos—Eel

Pampano—Pompfret either silver or black

Pla-pla—Big *tilapia*, bigger than 1 kg a piece

Salay-salay—Smooth-tailed trevally

Samaral—Also a rabbit fish but with orange lines and is usually bigger

Sapsap—Ponyfish

Talakitok—Trevally

Tambakol—Skipjack tuna

Tamban—Sardinella

Tanguingue, tangigi, tanige—Spanish mackerel, sometimes in the US also called a kingfish. There are two different types: The more common one has stripes on its belly and a rounded head. Another similar fish but bigger is called the wahoo.

Tawilis—Herring, but grown in freshwater. In the Philippines it is only found in Taal Lake.

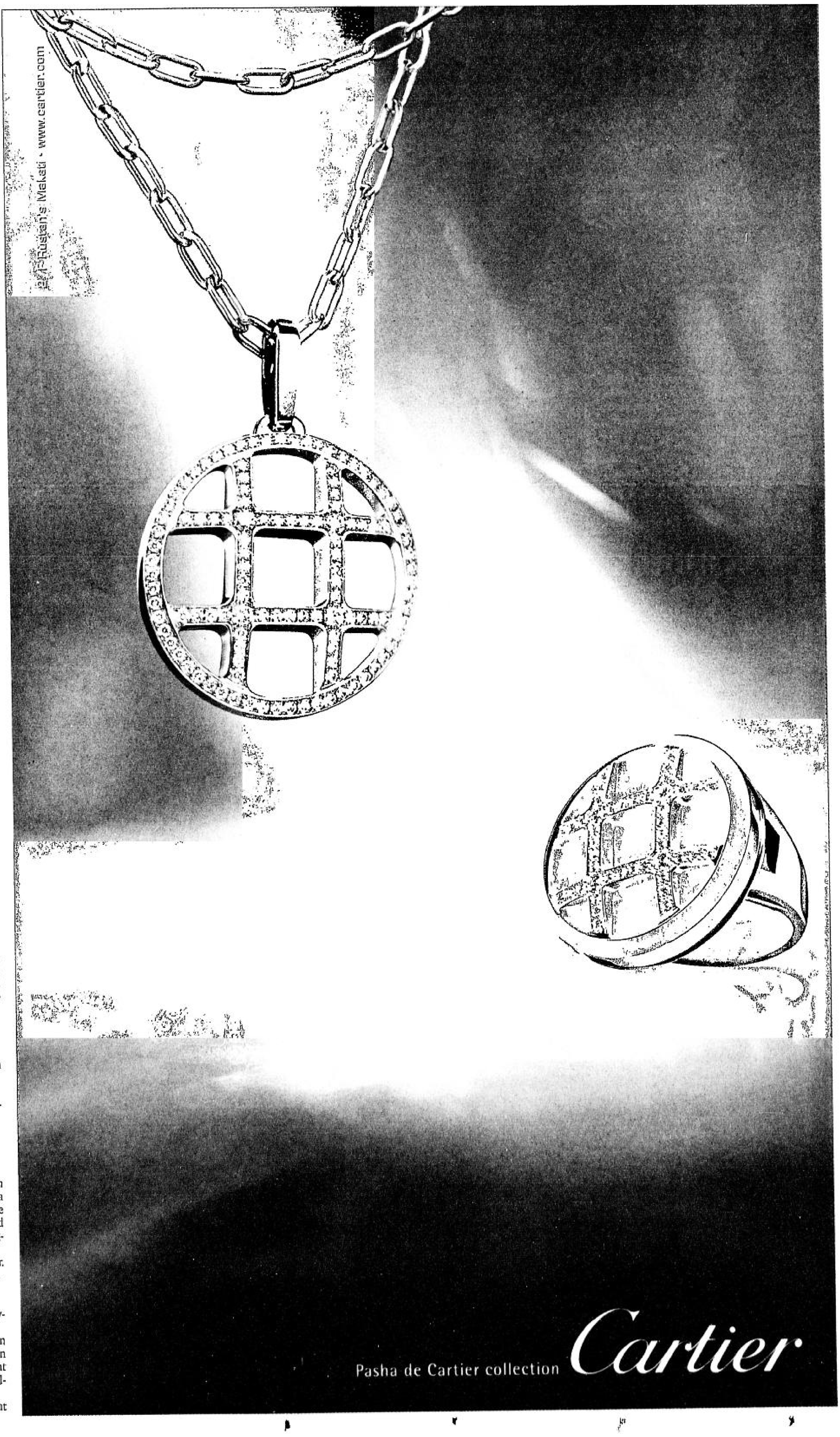
English with no local equivalent

- Haddock, perch, tilefish—no local equivalent
- Pollock—no local—fish usually caught in Atlantic and North Pacific by US and Russian vessels frozen on board, sold in markets or sent to China and Thailand for reprocessing into fillets or blocks
- Sablefish—no local—a Black Cod or what the Japanese call *gindara*. There is a fish locally called *gindara* which is actually an oil fish due to its high oil content. It is a good fish and looks like sablefish. Because of its high oil content, can cause diarrhea, recommended portion size is 6 ounces or 150 grams.
- Croaker—no local though there's reference to *alakaak* in the Fish Book
- Flounder, sole, halibut—all referred to as *dapa* in the fish books. We have an Indian halibut (brown-colored skin) and a tongue sole
- Herring—closest is *dilis* and *tawilis*

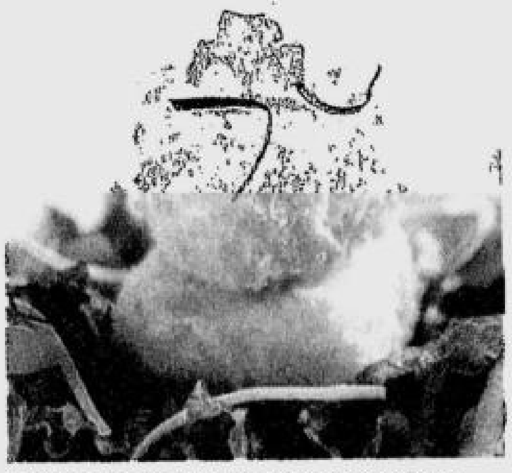
More fish facts and the finale on eggs, next week!

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph

MANY Philippine fish varieties have corresponding English names.


Rustan's Makati • www.cartier.com
Pasha de Cartier collection
Cartier

Hosting a party has never been this fun or this tasteful



FRIED breaded Camembert is crunchy on the outside and creamy on the inside.

THE CHEESE platter ignites chemistry and good conversation among guests.

THE WIDE variety of cheeses from New Zealand's Mainland Cheese

The art of entertaining with cheese

By Beia Formoso
Contributor

IF THERE IS ANYONE WHO HAS gotten the art of entertaining at home down pat, it's Lucy Torres. With the number of friends and family she and actor-hubby Richard Gomez share, there is never a dull moment, nor such a thing as a small meal, in their household.

"I've even had the *yaya* prepare food *nakatimpla na*. We freeze them, then just take them out when Richard brings home company," confesses the ever-ready hostess.

But when there is no time to spare, even with ready-made *ulam* in the freezer, Lucy resorts to her best-kept secret: Cheese.

"It's the classiest, most stylish gourmet food item that you can prepare in a snap," she claims. "I'm not really an expert at cooking but preparing cheese is simple and effortless."

Well said by someone who is token endorser of Mainland Cheese, which has brought to Manila the authentic flavors of the finest cheeses from all over the world. Made by New Zealand Milk, the leading cheese brand in New Zealand and long-time maker of Anchor Milk products, Mainland Cheese is all-natural and aged to perfection.

LUCY Torres-Gomez teaches how to make a cheese platter.

art of
entertaining
home

LUCY shares her home-entertaining secrets in "The Art of Entertaining" guidebook.

Mainland Cheese has launched "The Art of Entertaining," a campaign and guidebook introducing Filipinos to the growing trend of serving cheese as a new and exciting form of home entertaining.

The best introduction to cheeses is the cheese platter.

According to Lucy, the cheese platter is the first salvo of the different food courses to come, and ignites chemistry and good conversation among guests.

"The cheese platter is my absolute specialty. It's so creative and I always discover new ways to have fun with it," says Lucy.

A cheese platter must be a combination of different textures, tastes, sights and smells. Recommended cheeses go from a creamy Havarti, crumbly Feta, to a sharp Vintage, medium and hard cheeses like Gouda and Edam, or blue or white mold cheeses such as Camembert and Brie. Aside from a wide array of cheeses, add bread, crackers, nuts, fruit slices, veggie sticks and, for extra flavor, gherkins, pickled onions and olives. This sophisticated before-and-after dinner repertoire, when complemented with fine wine, is a true experience on its own.

"The Art of Entertaining" guide contains more of Lucy's cheese-platter ideas, as well as creative tips for get-togethers at home whether big or small, valuable information on cheeses and recipes for yummy appetizers or filling main courses—all including cheese, of course.

Mainland Cheese offers a variety of table cheeses for the everyday cheese consumer, for any conceivable use. Neophytes can start off with Mild's delicate butter flavor, and the figure-conscious will appreciate Light's 35-percent less fat.

Likewise there are table cheeses to suit specific cooking needs. Colby is a rich table cheese that melts best when grated, perfect for spaghetti and lasagna. Edam is a Dutch cheese with a slightly salty taste, ideal for cheese platters and salads.

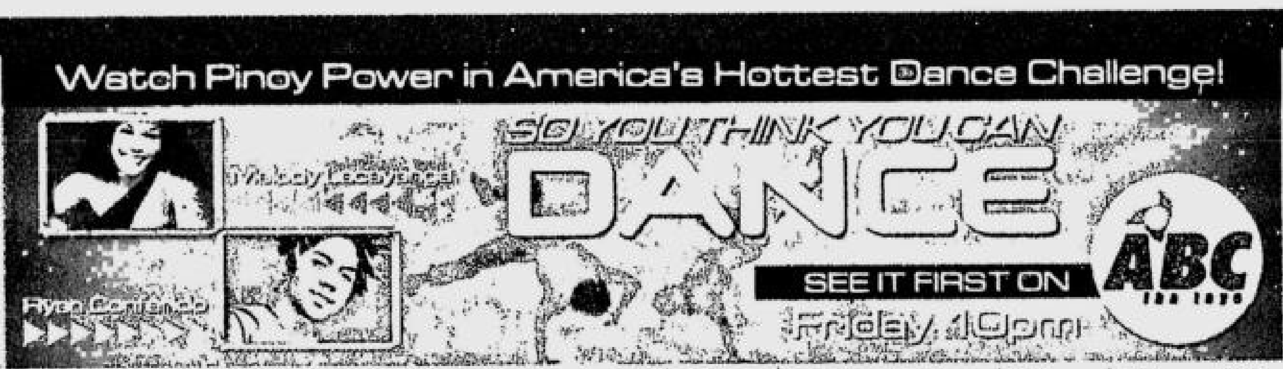
There is no doubt, however, that entertaining cheeses with more refined textures, flavors and composition are Mainland Cheese's specialty. From the creamy classics Brie and Camembert (Lucy's favorite cheese dishes are the stuffed Brie and fried Camembert), Gruyere (that famous Swiss cheese with "holes"), to New Zealand's own mild and slightly sweet Egmont.

Mainland Cheese is conveniently available in supermarkets all over the metro. They have unique and innovative cheese corners located at SM Megamall and SM Makati which feature New Zealand Milk's Mainland and Perfect Italiano, along with other specialty cheeses.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Thursday, November 24, 2005



Watch Pinoy Power in America's Hottest Dance Challenge!
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE
Melody Lacayanga
Ryan Conferido
SEE IT FIRST ON ABC
Friday, 10pm

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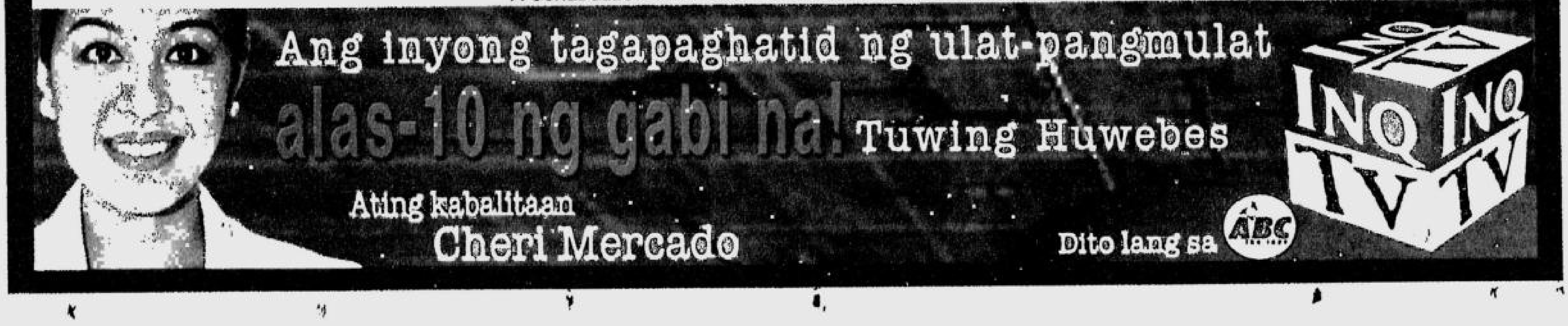
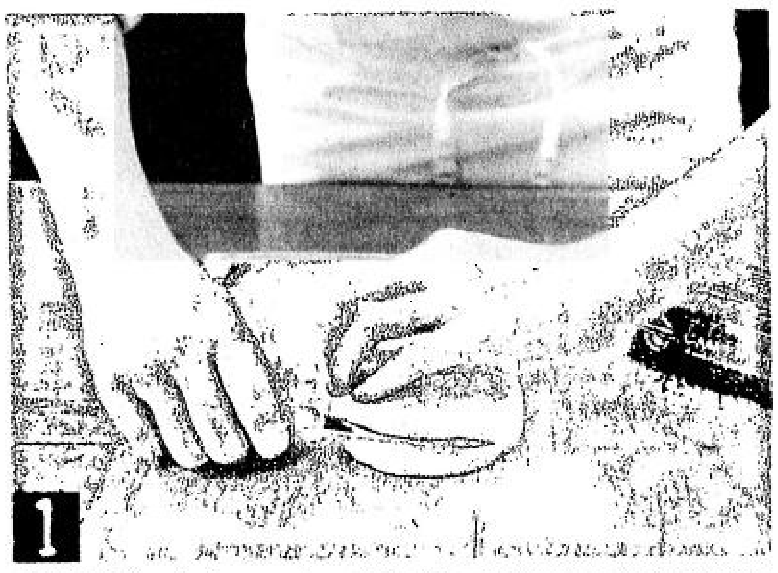
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5			Winner TV Shopping		Barclays EPL		EPL Goals		Sentro	Mumbai Thriller	S.O.S		Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	Asia Pacific Qualifier	Rockstar (Result Show)	Inq TV	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Vietnam Rose	Pinoy Big Brother	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Amazon		The Outer Limits (Season IV)		Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	The Contender Rematch Mora vs. Manfredo				The Shield	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Cinema One		Along Prince Charming								All My Life				Valentina				Laban Ko Ito Walang Dapat Madamay	
Cinemax	Blue Demon			Helen Of Troy				Anna's Dream			Boiling Point			No Way Up			Bean (10:25PM)		
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Speed Week		Extreme Machines		IBM Innovation Hour		Wild Science		Hyperspace With Sam Nill		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Lizzie Mcguire		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN				Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		Figure Skating		LPGA Golf ADT C'ship				Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		LPGA Golf ADT C'ship				Sportscenter Asia
ETC		GBB	Knock First	1 Hr. Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Catholic Faith & Vatican II	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Virtue Storybook	Image Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Good Or Evil: Who Decides?	EWTN Gallery	Where God Weeps	EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Catechisms And Controversies	The Word Was Made Flesh	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Romanza	Dragonball Z	Slam Dunk		Frog Prince	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Jewel In The Palace	Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The Nanny	Family Law II		Strong Medicine		Midsomer Murders: Electric Vendetta			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Family Law II (11:25PM)
HBO			Motives			Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom			Executive Decision (6:45 PM)					What A Girl Wants			Hard Target (10:45PM)		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		SeaGames Special		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	WWE ECW 2005				Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Manila Uncovered	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fixl	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
MTV Philippines	AD 05: Crashing With Good Charlotte	MTV Cribs	That MTV Chart Show		Pimp My Ride	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		Punk'D	Brand New	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandaito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Megastructures		[illegible] Machines		Catastrophe		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Explorations Powered By Duracell	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Siya?	Balitang Trabaho		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Network Forum		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	The Fairly Odd Parents	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Bess Basta Ikaw				Hahabol-Habol				Hotshots				Tong-its				Elvis
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		The Ultimate Fighter		Revelations		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Shepherd's Voice	
Solar Sports		Chess Master WS Finals		Greatest Classics			NBA Game Celtics @ Cavaliers					Sports Desk		NBA Game Suns @ Rockets					NBA Jam
Sports Plus	NBA Game Houston @ Dallas					Party Poker. Com World Open 2005				Slipstream		NFL 2005: Indianapolis @ Cincinnati						NASCAR Ford 400 Miami	
Star Movies	Direct Action			Evel Knievel (4:10 PM)			The Country Bears (5:45 PM)			Starsky & Hutch (7:15 PM)				The Fan				The Chamber (10:55PM)	
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	The Drew Carey Show Miss World Northern Europe Vote For Me	Less Than Perfect Miss World Southern Europe Vote For Me	The Apprentice		Friends	Scrubs
Studio 23		Yugioh Duel Monster		UAAP				Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	The Contender		Alias (8:20 PM)	Desperate Housewives (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Salt

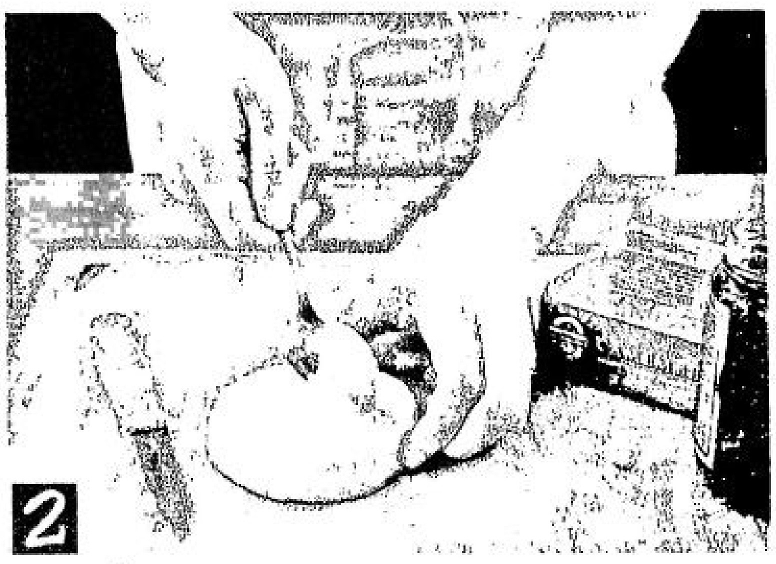
TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



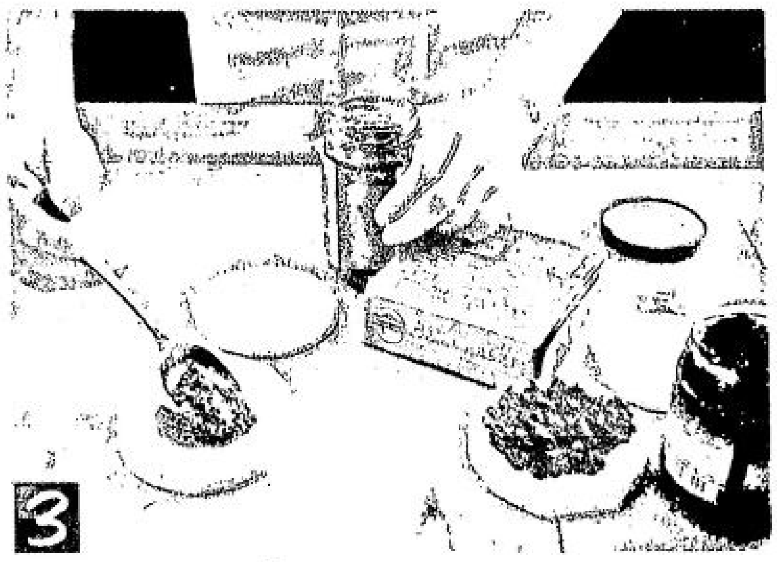
Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV



GENTLY slice the top portion off the Brie or Camembert. Set the top aside.



EVENLY remove about 1 tbsp off the middle of the cheese.

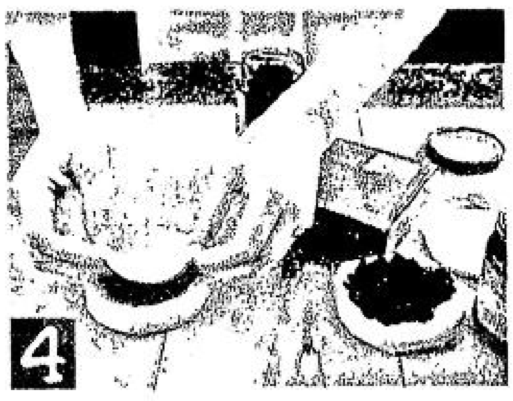


SPREAD the filling evenly. Try not to overstuff it so it will be easy to close.

How to stuff a Brie or a Camembert

mainland
CA

STUFFED Camembert



PUT the top of the cheese back on like a sandwich. Wrap in cling wrap and serve after a few hours.

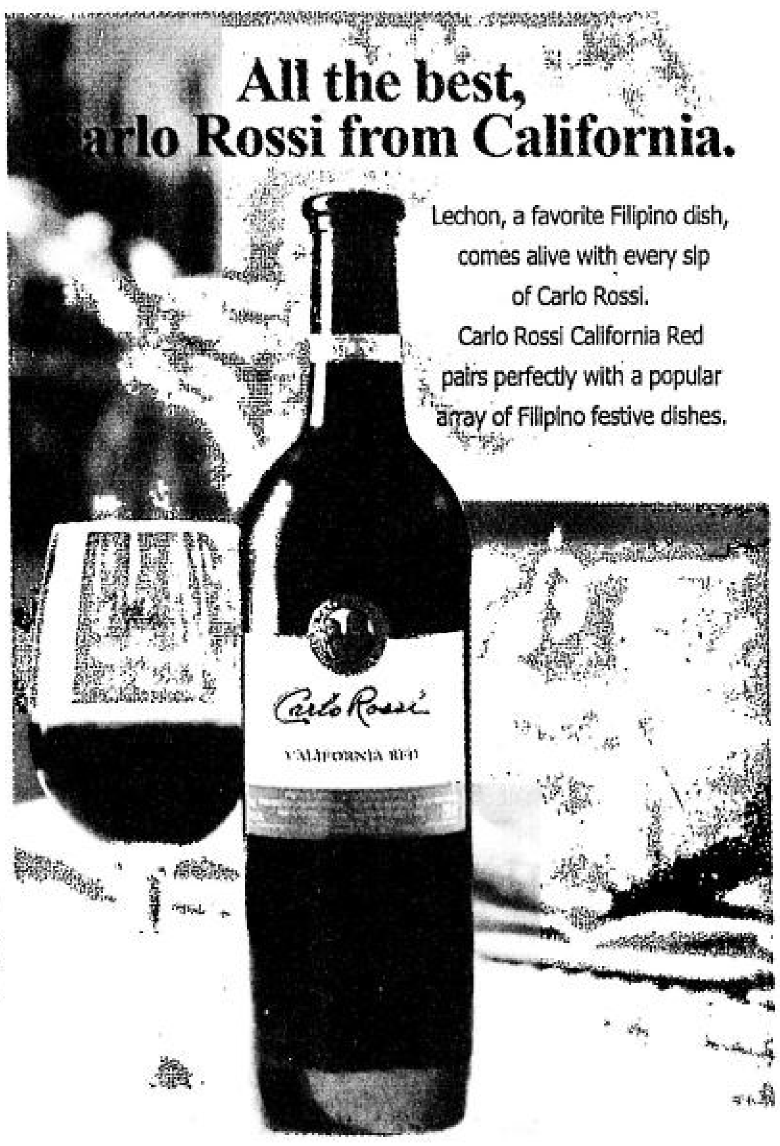
STEP BY STEP

BRIE AND CAMEMBERT ARE THE USUAL runaway favorites on a cheese platter. Take it from Lucy Torres, whose favorite cheese dish is a "stuffed" Brie. "I found a way to delight my guests by giving my Brie or Camembert a little extra treatment. Aside from aging it, I stuff it with special fillings so that with every bite comes an outburst of delicious goodness," she says.

Fillings may be prepared spreads like red pesto, olive puree, or truffle or wild mushroom paste. Or you can be creative and surprise your guests by trying out new fillings such as sun-dried tomatoes and basil. Serve with bread, crostini or crackers.

What you need:

Mainland cheese Brie or Camembert
Filling
Cheeseboard
Knife
Spoon



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THREE-CHEESE
Spaghetti Sauce
Spaghetti Sauce
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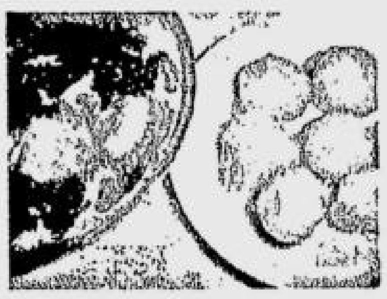
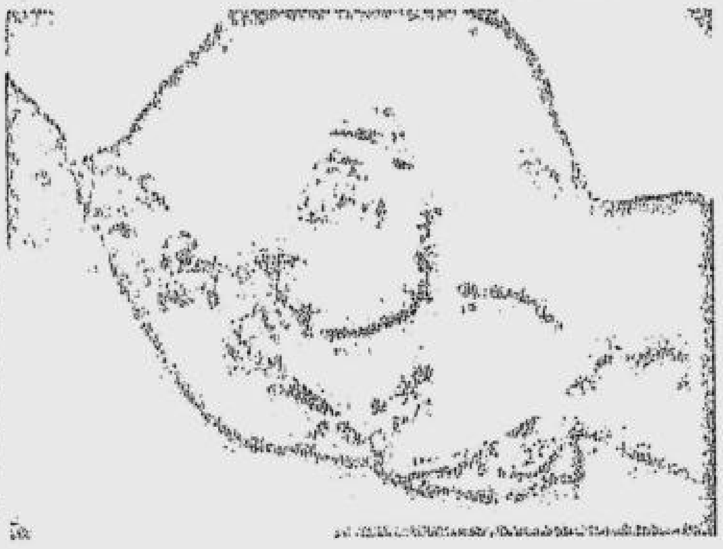
Spaghetti Sauce

Great Pasta...From Preparation To Perfection

IN LIEU of the PDI Family Recipes Contest winner this week, we are reprinting these two photos, which appeared with the winning melt-in-your-mouth yema balls recipe in this section (Nov. 17, p. C4), to properly credit them to two food weblogs. Both photos were submitted by James Anthony Ceniza with the yema recipe. It has come to the attention of the INQUIRER that he took the photo of the yema with the pink wrapper from the food weblog Market Manila (marketmanila.com), and the other photo from the food weblog Pilgrims Pots & Pans (karen.mychronicles.net). Mr. Ceniza has apologized to the owners of these food weblogs for the unauthorized use of their photos.

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST





Southeast Asian buffets

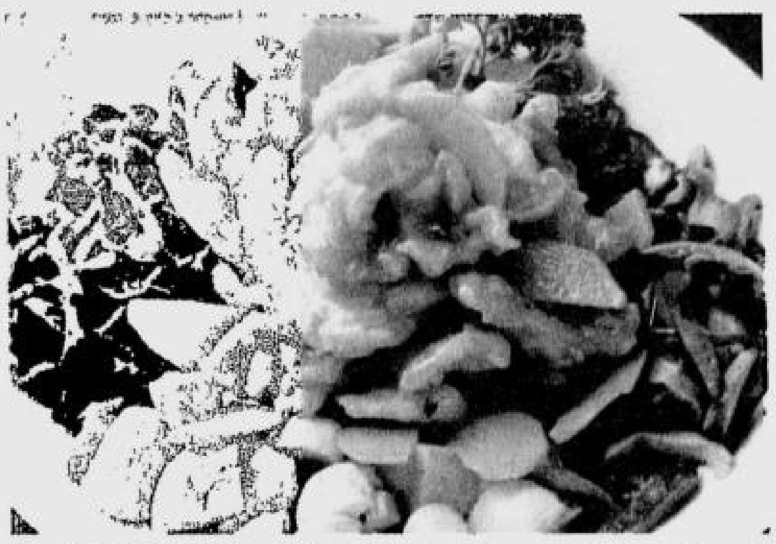
DINING OUT

THE BELLEVUE Hotel adds a distinctly Southeast Asian menu to its regular lunch and dinner buffets. From Nov. 27 to Dec. 5, the hotel's Cafe D'Asie offers Filipino dishes like *kare-kare*, Bicol express, *paksiw na pata, ginataang alimasag* and chicken *adobo sa gata*. Call 7718181.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Benkay Japanese restaurant presents 'Nabe Kaiseki' (Japanese Hot Pot Fair) this month. Generous servings of noodles and vegetables fresh from the pot are available. Call 8673333.

RESTAURANT Verbena at Discovery Country Suites in Tagaytay offers Organic Mozzarella Cheese Pot served 'fondue style' and Pan-Seared Foie Gras with figs and prunes in cognac sauce, two of its signature dishes. Also popular with diners are US Angus Shortribs "Goulash" or Grilled US Angus Rib Eye Steak with two-peppercorn sauce for two persons and, as an alternative to beef, Chef David's Seared Chilean Sea Bass with Madeira-Mushroom Broth. Other best-selling items are Mediterranean Seafood Bouillabaisse and the Crispy Duck Leg Confit "Andalusia." For dessert, there's the Bouchon's Chocolate Marquise, a rich and silky chocolate luxury paired with vanilla custard sauce and toasted pistachios. Restaurant Verbena is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Call (046) 4134567 or 6838383.

CRAVINGS celebrates 17 years and has prepared a "Shareable Bar Chow" with choices ranging from Crispy Jalapeño Cheese Sticks, Chili Garlic Mushrooms, Spicy Fried Squid, BBQ Chicken Fingers and Sausage Skillet. Cravings' new lunch and dinner entrees include the Roast Beef with Mushroom Sauce and the Tenderloin Tip Skillet. The restaurant has outlets on Katipunan Avenue, QC; Metrowalk, Ortigas; Shangri-La Mall; Fraser Place Serviced Residence, Makati; Festival Mall, and West Avenue. Call 6891111.



CHINESE MONK offers Oriental favorites: Orange Chicken, General Tso's, Four Mushroom Chicken and Mongolian Beef. For every order of any of these Oriental dishes, diners will get free Banana Rolls for dessert. The restaurant is at the G/L of Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City. It's open from 11 a.m. to 12 midnight. Call 8974129.

Free pizza and cash rewards

SHAKEY'S OFFERS NEW FREEBIES TO DINERS with a new agreement it forged recently with Air Philippines and Total Solutions Inc.

Travelers on Air Philippines should keep their boarding passes with the Shakey's logo to get a free regular thin crust Hawaiian pizza and a choice of soda and iced tea with the purchase of a large or party-sized thin crust pizza. The offer is good until Feb. 28, 2006.

Diners with Smart Money Cards may get cash rewards via Smart Money through Shakey's Total Solutions Inc. Simply enroll in any Cash Reward Outlet. Each purchase earns you points that are automatically converted to Smart Money. Every point is equivalent to P1.

You can withdraw money from automated teller machines (ATMs) and stores, even make purchases and pay your bills through your Smart Money Mastercard.

For delivery, call 5338000.

Enjoy a chicken blowout

FRIO MIXX MAKES THE ALL-TIME FAVORITE fried chicken more affordable and enjoyable with its "Chicken Blow-Out" promo.

For only P39, you get a piece of chicken, rice and unlimited gravy. An additional P10 gets you an iced tea or Coke.

A four-piece chicken meal with four glasses of iced tea or Coke is available for only P189, while the six- and eight-piece meals cost P289 and P389, respectively.

Sarah Jane Tan, marketing manager of Frio Mixx, said the promo was their way of thanking loyal customers.

Frio Mixx has also spruced up its look with the use of vibrant colors like green, violet and pink to reach out to a younger and hipper crowd.

For inquiries or deliveries, call 3634838, text 0917-8353555 or e-mail marqint@surfshop.net.ph.

Do-it-yourself corned beef

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS SCHOOL of Culinary Arts is conducting the following classes:

Nov. 25—Make Your Own Corned Beef (all new)—Whole Corned Beef Brisket or Breakfast Corned Beef Made by You From Scratch, soup, salad, side dishes. Each participant brings home a mini slab.

Nov. 26—Giant Surigao Crabs: Ways of Cooking Giant Crabs—Oven-baked with Garlic and Herbs, Delicious Crab Boil with Vegetables and Dipping Sauces (a meal in a pot), Authentic Chili Crabs, Guinataan, Steamed Chinese Style with Dipping Sauces, Clay Pot Crabs

Nov. 28—Seafood Festival 2005 (all new)—Fried and Grilled Seafood Platter with Sauces, Lobster Paella, Seafood Casserole, Scallops with Shrimp Sauce and Buttered Rice, Gambas en Gazpacho con Arroz Española

Nov. 30—Noche Buena (all new)—Homemade Mini Pan de Sal, Baked Fiesta Hams with Assorted Fruit Glazes, Paella Arroz Caldo, Pinoy Lasagne with Carabao's Milk, Perfect Suman with Sauces

For inquiries and reservations, call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 0917-8399888.

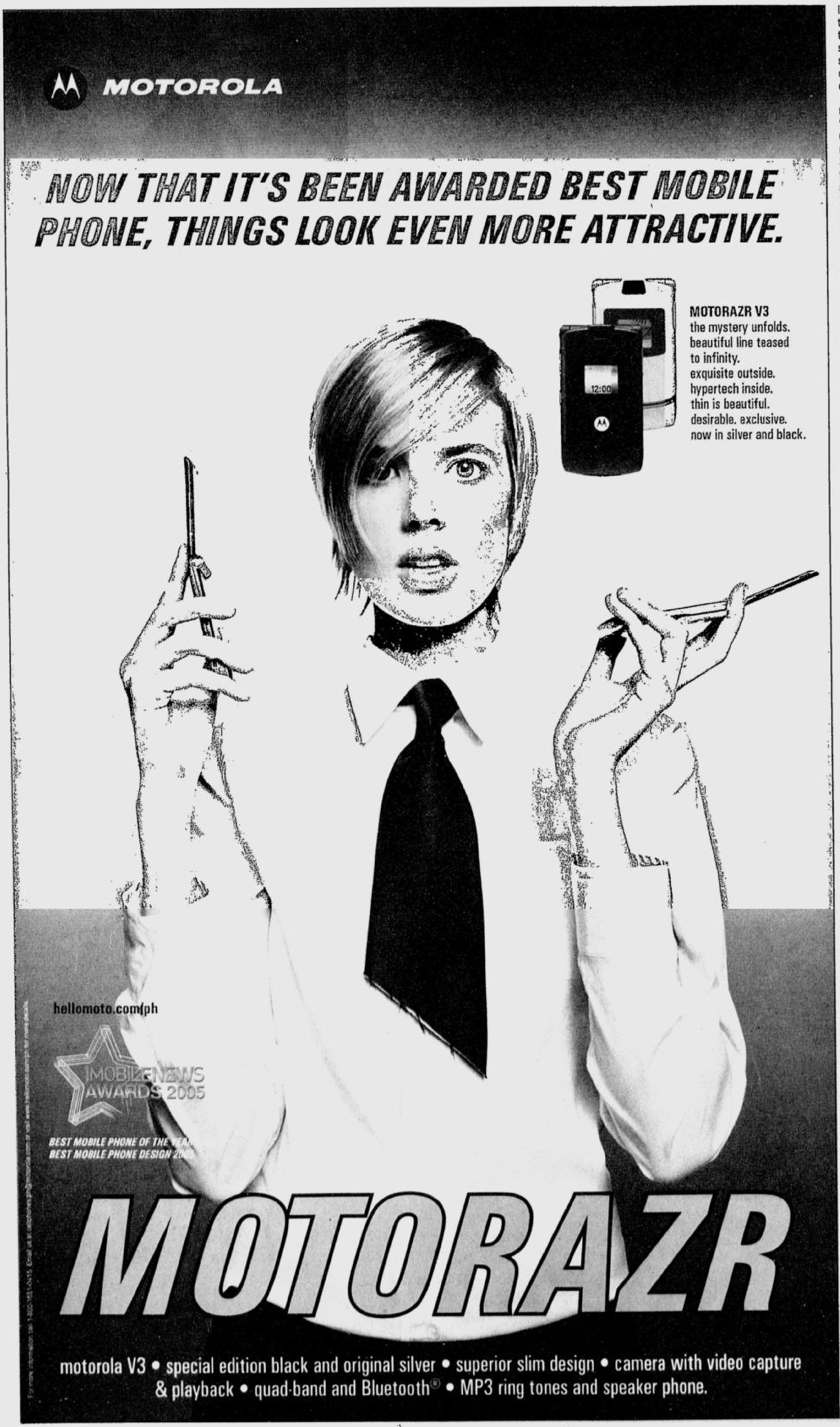


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ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Pamapa Itum, or the romance of saté

While tasting local food at its home is the best way to do it, the next best thing is to have someone cook it for you where you are

MY MOST TEMPTING INVITATION was to go to Jolo and taste saté. It was from a friend who married a German Tausug, if you can imagine that combination. She said this Jolo version of the barbecue had a sauce that was so hot it could make the top of my head sweat.

This was in the 1970s. The invite should have been accepted because a year after, the Jolo war began. It wasn't prudent to risk my life even in the interest of food research so to this day the visit to that mysterious island hasn't happened.

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

But while tasting local food at its home is the best way to do it, the next best thing is to have someone cook it for you where you are. My friend with the German-Tausug husband learned to cook *pyanggan manuk*. It's grilled chicken with greenish and black streaks on its exterior. It was for me, then, such an exotic and flavorful dish and I wanted to know the secret. It was later during a research on regional cooking for a book ("Philippine Cuisine," Monterey Farms Corp., 1995) when I discovered that to be *pamapa itum*.

Lily Cid, a Joloano who decided to leave her island home when the shooting began, told me that *pamapa itum* is the spice mix used in many dishes. It has coconut that is charcoal-roasted until brown, grated, then mixed with peeled and minced pieces of ginger, turmeric, onion and garlic, all pounded together with a mortar and pestle. Other flavors come from salt and pepper. In Jolo, there are certain women known for their *pamapa itum*, Cid said, and who, just by smelling, can usually tell which of the ingredients was still lacking.

The roasted coconut is the *itum* in that spice mix giving the blackened hue in the food. For those who don't like the black streaks, there is *pamapa puti* wherein the coconut is not added. But for a true Joloano, coconut is always a must, essential to the flavoring. Cid recalls the sound of coconuts being scraped as soon as the fasting ends at sunset during Ramadan. And she revealed how Muslims love to drink coconut milk with an egg yolk mixed in.

Spice mix

In the book, the dishes which had *pamapa itum* were the *pyanggan manuk* and the *tiyula itum*. I can imagine how my friend rubbed the spice mix with a little oil into the quartered whole chicken before boiling in coconut milk with lemongrass, removing the cooked *manuk* from the mixture to be grilled and then returned to the mixture before serving. In *tiyula itum*, the spice mix is boiled with beef leg (*kenchi*) and beef blood.

Far from Jolo, Lily Cid used the Via Mare kitchen of Glenda Barretto to demonstrate just how to do *pamapa itum*. While the convenience of a food processor was available, she said it was better to use the mortar and pestle because all the juices of the ingredients aren't dissipated.

And then she showed us just how to do saté. The secret is in the sauce, and Jolo saté sauce, Cid informed us, is different from that of Malaysia and Indonesia because it doesn't have peanuts and is not thick but soupy. While she demonstrated, she kept on tasting to achieve the kind of flavor Joloanos look for. I suppose it should be the perfect balance of the salty *bagoong* (shrimp paste) and the dried shrimps, the spiciness of the curry powder, the sweetness of the coconut milk, the citrus flavor of the lemongrass and the hotness of the chili.

That was my first taste of Jolo saté. It didn't make the top of my head sweat because my palate is now used to a higher degree of hotness. But it hasn't stopped me from wishing I could taste saté in Jolo itself and get to talk to the women who make the necessary *pamapa itum*.

WHAT'S ON AT ROBINS ONS
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1ST ASIAN "ICES" HALL OF FAME AWARDEE

1. DEC. 5 - 9 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC CAKE DECORATING - (P10,500. for whole course)
P4,000 - DEC. 5 - 6 - Learn 10 diff. kinds of icing flowers, figure piping. Bake & decorate your basket weave cake using boiled icing.
P2,750 - DEC. 7 - Bake & decorate your own character birthday cake using star tips, simple borders & icing flowers.
P4,500 - DEC. 8 - 9 - Wedding cake assembly: Bake & decorate your own 2 tiered wedding cake using fancy borders, scrolls, strings & icing flowers NEXT SCHED: JAN. 3 - 7
2. DEC. 10, 17 & 24 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING FOR DIABETIC
P3,000 - DEC. 10 - Flaky (kaliskis) Empanada, Coffee Cheese Cake, Chocolate Nut Pie, Pineapple Flower Cake, Lemonpie. NEXT SCHED: JAN. 7
P3,000 - DEC. 17 - Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread. NEXT SCHED: JAN. 14
P3,000 - DEC. 24 - Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies. Baking for Diabetics NEXT SCHED: JAN. 21
3. DEC. 12 - 15 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED CAKE DECORATING - (P10,500. for whole course)
P3,500 - DEC. 12 - 13 - Learn new & easy method of gumpaste flowers, cattleya, rose stephanotis & baby's breath using latest recipe, make your own bootie using textured rolling pin.
P3,500 - DEC. 14 - Learn the latest recipe of fondant chocolate fondant, its application using texture rolling pins & lace mats, quilting & swags & ribbon.
P4,500 - DEC. 15 - 16 - Fondant wedding cake assembly. Bake & decorate your 2 tiered wedding cake using ribbon insertion, finest string works & lace pieces NEXT SCHED: JAN. 9 - 13
4. DEC. 19 - 23 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - (P12,500. For whole course)
P2,500 - DEC. 19 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P2,500 - DEC. 20 - Cakes & Roll: malecañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamon.
P2,750 - DEC. 21 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & white bread.
P2,750 - DEC. 22 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart.
P2,500 - DEC. 23 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons NEXT SCHED: JAN. 16 - 20
5. P4,500 - DEC. 19 - 23 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE.
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling. b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium. c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies. d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes. *COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS by appointment* NEXT SCHED: JAN. 16 - 20
6. DEC. 26 - 30 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - (P13,500. For whole course)
Learn to make 25 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration.
P3,000 - DEC. 26 - All Sponge Cakes: Nelusko cake, Black Forest cake, Decadence cake, Fan Torte cake, Fruit Torte cake.
P3,000 - DEC. 27 - All Chiffon Cakes: Mango cake, Ube cake, Pistachio cake, Rocky Road cake, Coffee Crunch cake.
P3,000 - DEC. 28 - All Butter Cakes: Butter Rum cake, Carrot cake, Kahlua cake, Moist Chocolate cake, Special Fruit cake.
P3,000 - DEC. 29 - Cheesecakes: Blueberry, Mango, Tiramisu, Cookies & Cream, New York Cheesecake.
P3,000 - DEC. 30 - Merengues: Sansrival, Solothurn, Queens Torte, Braso de Mercedez, Pineapple Merengue Pie
NEXT SCHED: JAN. 23 - 27 / FOR SPECIAL SCHEDULE PLS. CALL
7. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW COURSE & LATEST GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P3,000. BY APPOINTMENT

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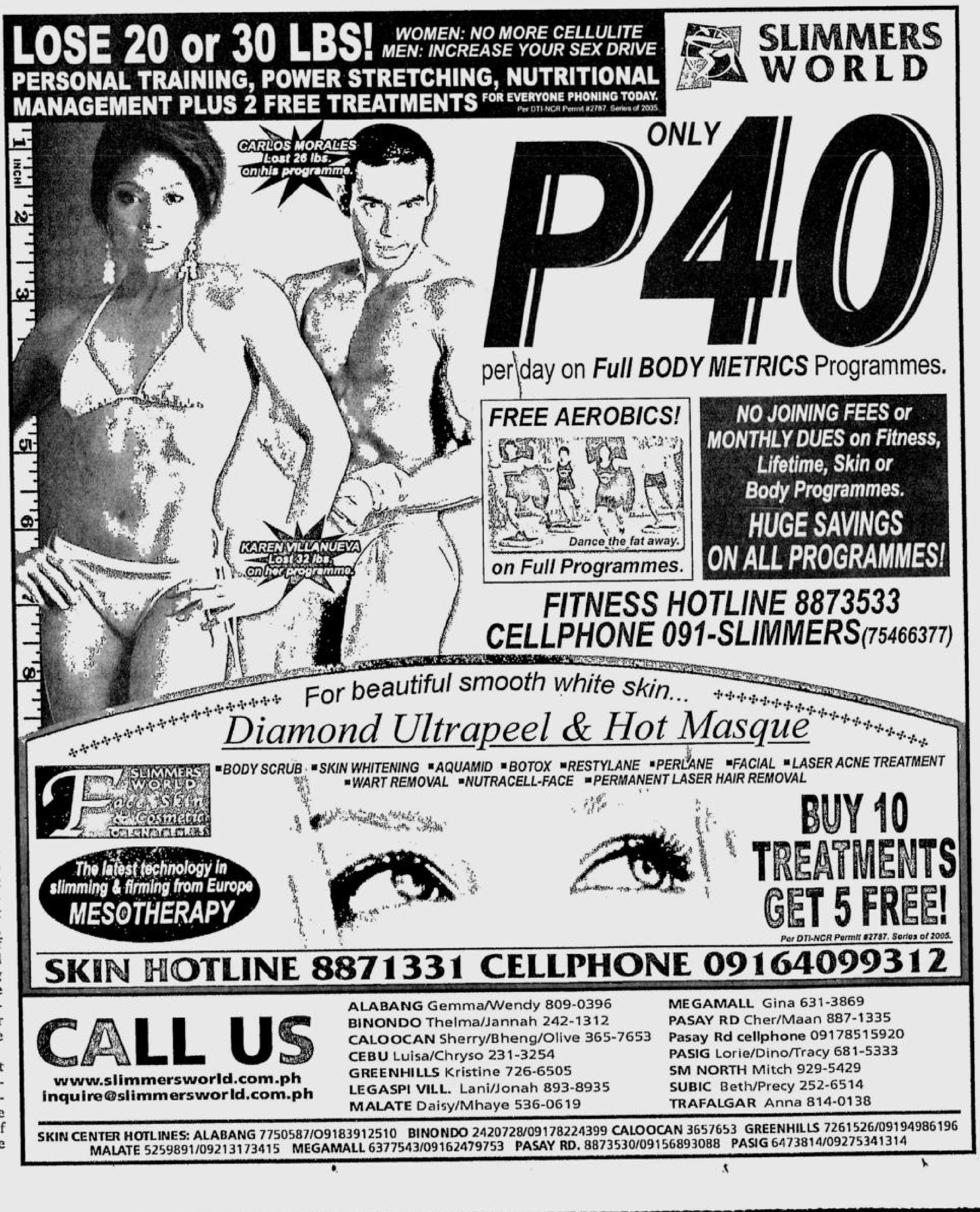

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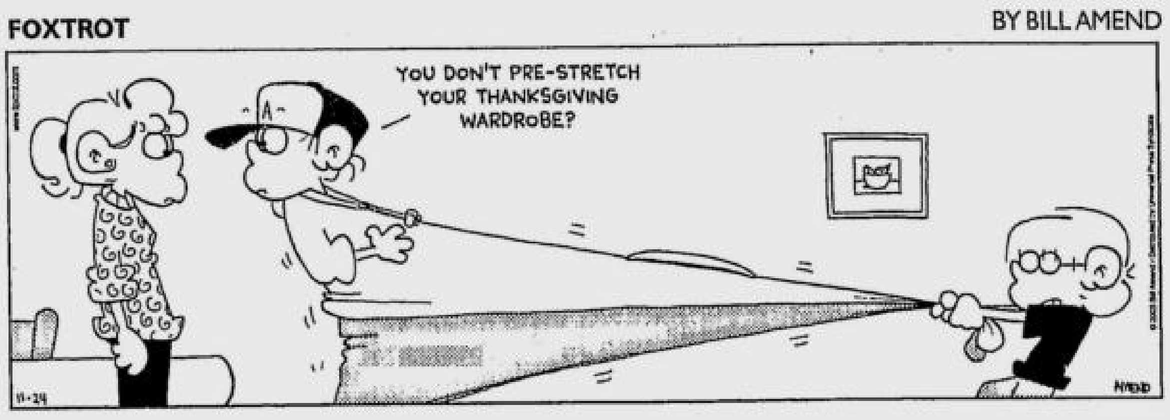
GREENHILLS Kristine 726-6505
LEGASPI VILL. Lani/Jonah 893-8935
MALATE Daisy/Mhaye 536-0619
MEGAMALL Gina 631-3869
PASAY RD Cher/Maan 887-1335
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920
PASIG Lorie/Dino/Tracy 681-5333
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429
SUBIC Beth/Precy 252-6514
TRAFALGAR Anna 814-0138
SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09194986196 MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473814/09275341314

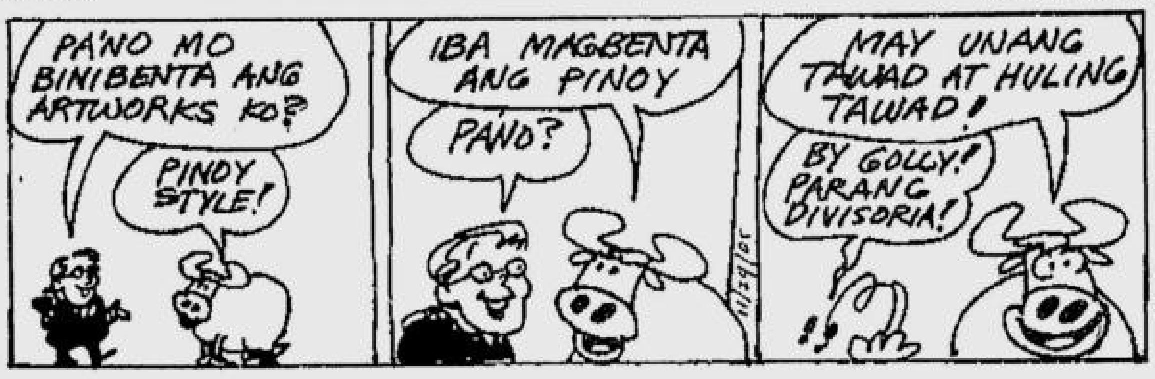
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU DON'T PRE-STRETCH YOUR THANKSGIVING WARDROBE?
11-24

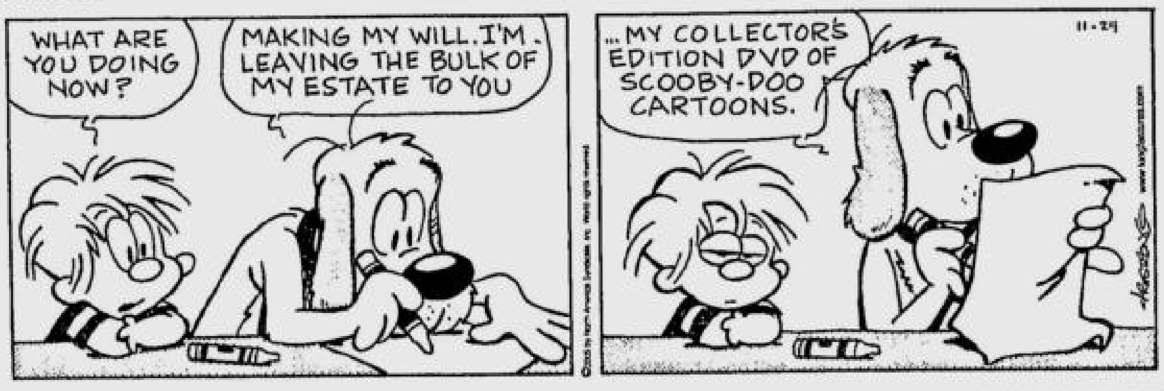
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PA'NO MO BINIBENTA ANG ARTWORKS KO?
PINOY STYLE!
IBA MAGBENTA ANG PINOY
PANO?
MAY UNANG TAWAD AT HULING TAWAD!
BY GOLLY! PARANG DIVISORIA!

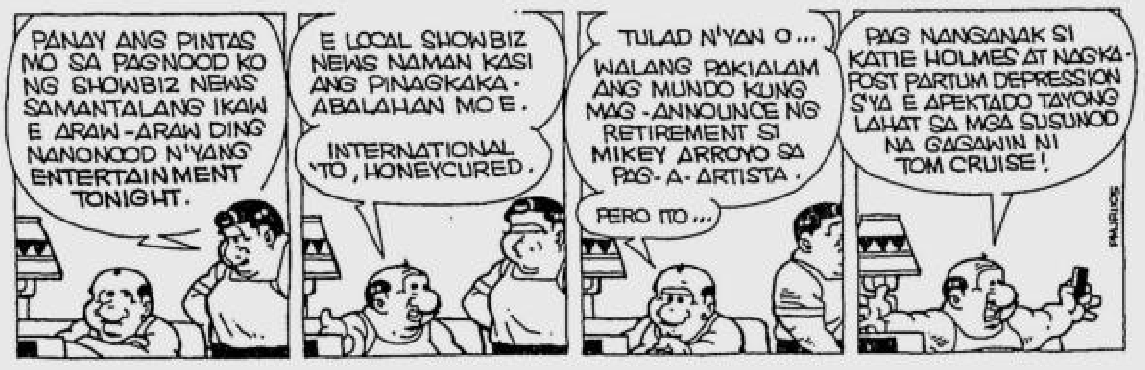
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?
MAKING MY WILL. I'M LEAVING THE BULK OF MY ESTATE TO YOU
...MY COLLECTOR'S EDITION DVD OF SCOOBY-DOO CARTOONS.
11-24

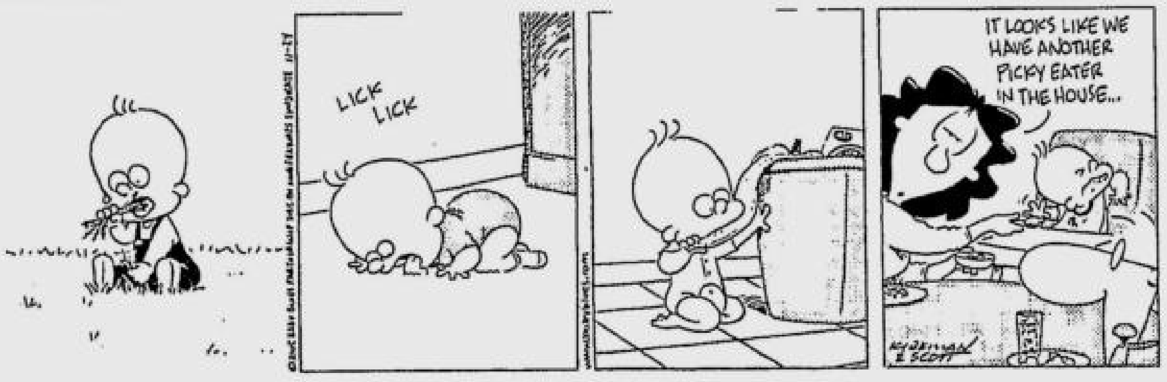
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PANAY ANG PINTAS MO SA PAGNOOD KO NG SHOWBIZ NEWS SAMANTALANG IKAW E ARAW-ARAW DING NANONOOD N'YANG ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT.
E LOCAL SHOWBIZ NEWS NAMAN KASI ANG PINAGKAKA-ABALAHAN MO E.
INTERNATIONAL 'TO, HONEYCURED.
TULAD N'YAN O...
WALANG PAKIALAM ANG MUNDO KUNG MAG-ANNOUNCE NG RETIREMENT SI MIKEY ARROYO SA PAG-A-ARTISTA.
PERO ITO...
PAG NANGANAK SI KATIE HOLMES AT NAGKA-POST PARTUM DEPRESSION S'YA E APEKTADO TAYONG LAHAT SA MGA SUSUNOD NA GAGAWIN NI TOM CRUISE!

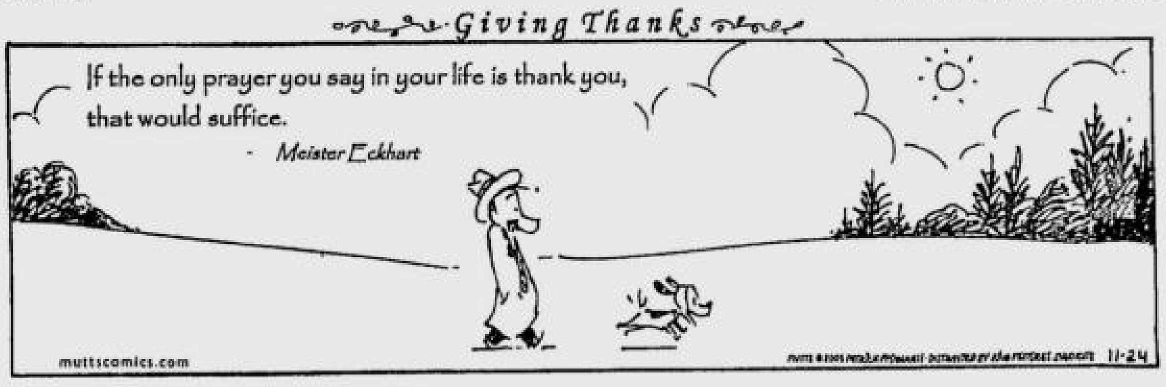
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


LICK LICK
IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE ANOTHER PICKY EATER IN THE HOUSE...
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

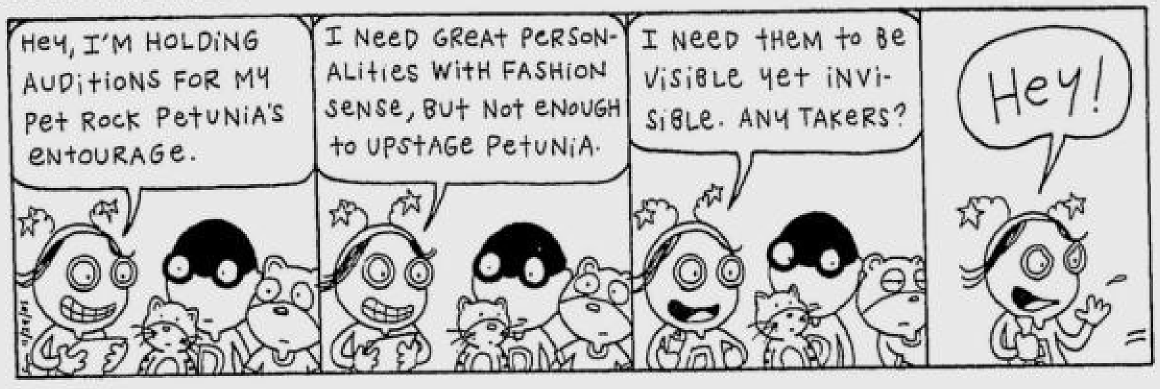
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Giving Thanks
If the only prayer you say in your life is thank you, that would suffice.
- Meister Eckhart
muttscomics.com
11-24

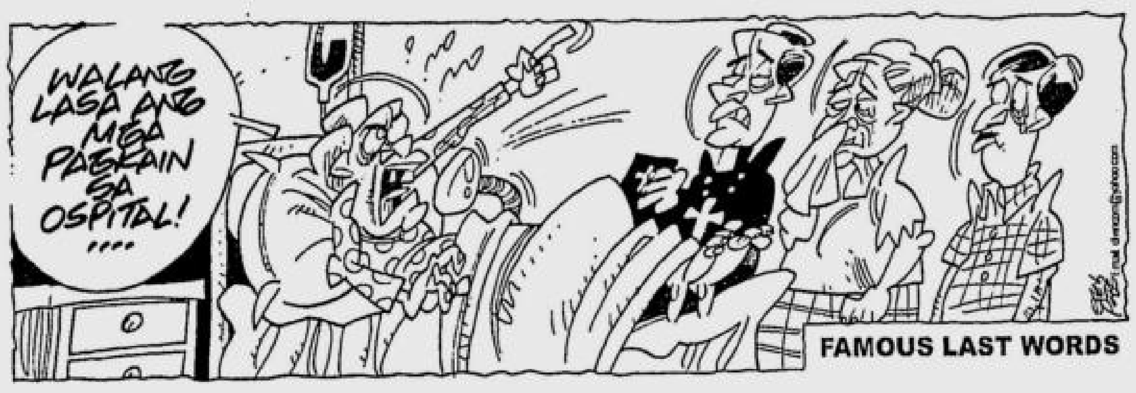
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, I'M HOLDING AUDITIONS FOR MY Pet Rock PetuNiA'S eNtOURAGE.
I NeeD GReAt PeRSONALities WitH FASHiON SeNSe, BUt NOt eNOUGH tO UPStAGe PetUNiA.
I NeeD tHeM tO Be ViSiBLe yet iNViSiBLe. ANy TAKeRS?
Hey!

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


WALANG LASA ANG MGA PAGKAIN SA OSPITAL! ....
FAMOUS LAST WORDS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a romantic with a tender soul. (Yet you're a practical realist as well.) You're intelligent, and have a sixth sense about people. However, because you often speak before you think, you can be very candid, sometimes shockingly so. You love to travel and take chances. The year ahead favors all relationships, romantic and otherwise.

Birthdate of: Denise Crosby, actress; Colin Hanks, actor; Billy Connolly, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You identify strongly with your beliefs today. The problem with this is that it tends to dismiss the beliefs of others. But hey—it's a big world. Some eat potatoes; some eat rice; some eat bread. But it's all starch.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Your ability to research the truth about anything today is amazing! You will leave no stone unturned. You'll find the answers you're looking for!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Conversations with others are passionate and heated today. But you can't hear what someone says while you're doing all the talking (and vice versa). Try to come up for air.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You can get an amazing amount done at work today. You have the focus and determination necessary to accomplish great things. In addition to this, you're excited about something.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're highly creative today. Plan to do anything that taps into your natural skills. It's also a fun-loving, playful day, and a great day for playful activities with children.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with family members will be intense but profitable today. You insist on being heard, that's for sure. Nevertheless, sometimes this is just what you have to do, right?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your communications skills are so strong today that you will excel at teaching, marketing, selling, writing, training, coaching, counseling and the like. (That's because you fervently believe what you say!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're very excited about cash flow and finances today; perhaps you really want to buy something. You're tops at business negotiations right now. No one can resist you!

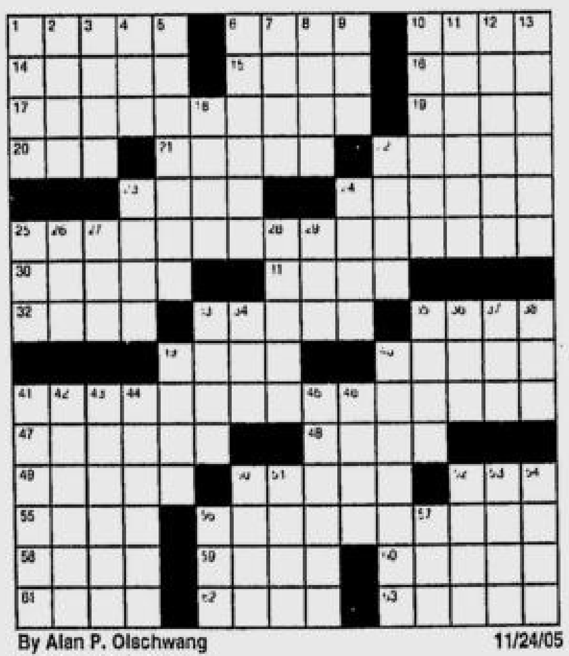
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is an exciting, active day for your sign. Both the Sun and Mercury come together in Sagittarius. This makes you very keen to enlighten someone about something. Do speak up!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Dealings with the government and large institutions can go very well today. Expect to find hidden answers for old problems.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a good day for meetings, conferences and good chinwags with pals. You're in a talkative mood. Get out there and enjoy the company of others.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If you have to convince your boss about something today, you will likely be successful. You'll put a lot of yourself into whatever you have to say.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

11/24/05

ACROSS

1 Scatter
6 At one's elbow
10 Greek cheese
14 Pleasant smell
15 Length times width
16 Puts on years
17 Start of Evan Esar quote
19 Type of pear
20 Bat material
21 Will Rogers prop
22 Create text
23 Evening in Padua
24 Facing the day
25 Part 2 of quote
30 Nimbi
31 Bearing
32 Letter opener?
33 "The Time Machine" people
35 Granny
39 Sibilant signal
40 Beneath
41 Part 3 of quote
47 Combines
48 Israeli port
49 Post-game summary
50 Attack
52 First of a gender
55 Stadium level
56 End of quote
58 Like a couch potato
59 Nylons
60 "The Odd Couple" neatnik
61 Announces
62 Outstanding
63 French cup

DOWN

1 Fleetwood Mac hit
2 Very at Versailles
3 __ Hashanah
4 Rhea's relative
5 Freshwater dory
6 Capital of the Bahamas
7 Notable periods
8 Nautical starter?
9 "Norma __"
10 Textile
11 One with "I" strain
12 Examination subject
13 Go up
18 Pol source
22 Small songbird
23 Headliner
24 Tarzan's friends
25 Roll of money
26 Dimension of color
27 Altar constellation
28 Ham it up
29 Nero's dozen
33 Atty. names followers
34 Fighting Tigers' sch.
35 Brooding place
36 Southern st.
37 Neither fish _ fowl
38 Reverence
39 Coop call
40 Bunt successfully
41 "Taras Bulba" star
42 Iroquois tribe
43 __ put (well phrased)
44 Long looks
45 Trawled
46 All, formerly
50 Finish third
51 Simplicity
52 Hen's output
53 Geese letters?
54 To be in Toulon
56 Relative pronoun
57 Spanish article

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

F	U	S	S		P	L	E	A	S		M	A	Y	A
A	T	O	P		H	I	P	P	O		O	V	E	R
T	A	L	E		O	G	E	E	S		N	E	A	T
S	H	O	W	S	T	H	E	D	O	O	R			
					H	O	T			R	O	A	R	S
R	A	D	I	U	S		S	A	U	C	E	P	A	N
E	R	E	C	T		P	E	C	K			I	T	O
G	I	V	E	S	T	H	E	H	E	A	V	E	H	O
A	D	O			E	I	R	E		D	I	C	E	D
R	E	T	R	I	A	L	S		S	H	E	E	R	S
D	R	E	A	R				O	H	O				
			S	E	N	D	S	P	A	C	K	I	N	G
D	I	S	C		I	O	N	I	C		I	R	A	N
A	R	E	A		P	R	A	N	K		R	O	M	A
B	A	W	L		S	A	G	E	S		K	N	E	W

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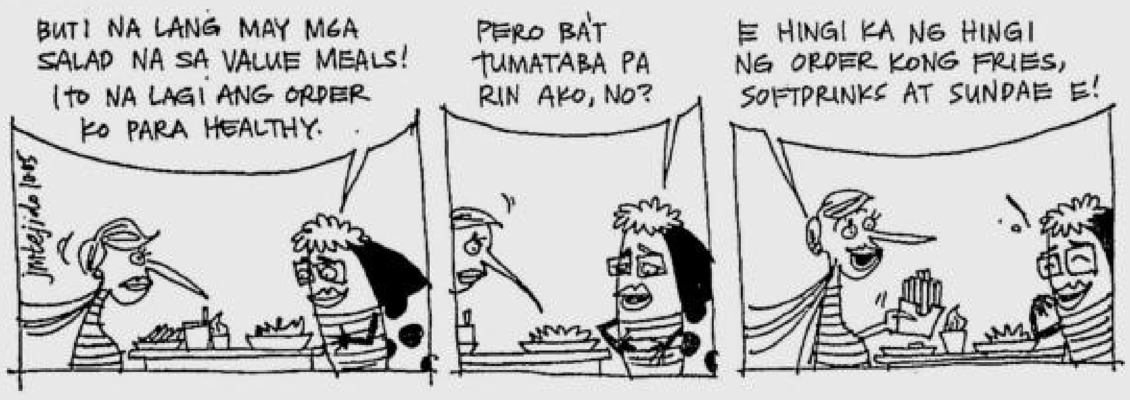
11/24/05

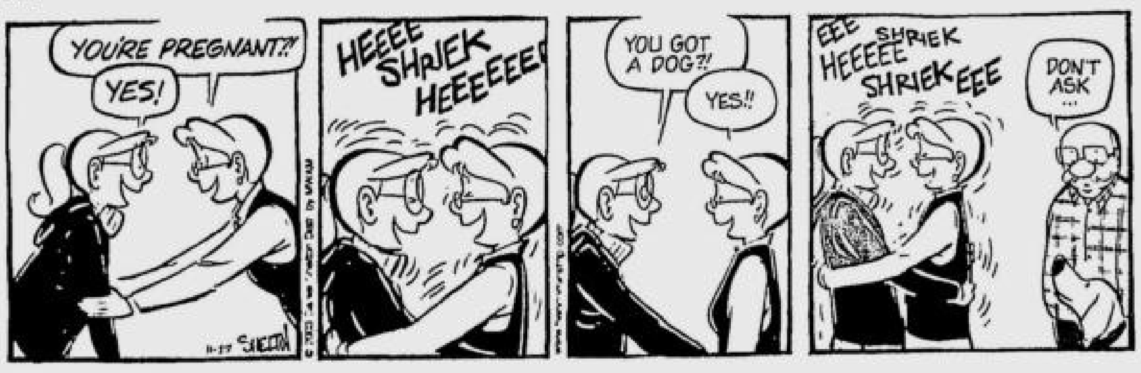
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUTI NA LANG MAY MGA SALAD NA SA VALUE MEALS! ITO NA LAGI ANG ORDER KO PARA HEALTHY.
PERO BA'T TUMATABA PA RIN AKO, NO?
E HINGI KA NG HINGI NG ORDER KONG FRIES, SOFTDRINKS AT SUNDAE E!
jmtejido 2005

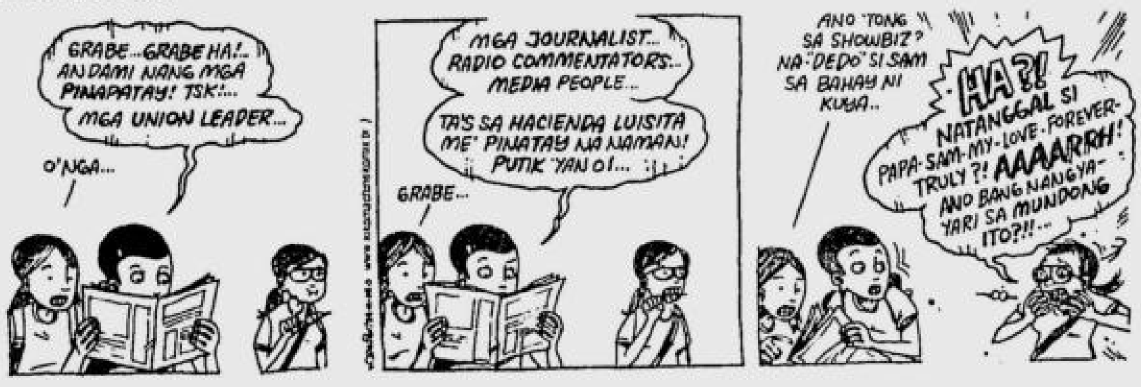
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YOU'RE PREGNANT?!
YES!
HEEEE SHRIEK HEEEEEE
YOU GOT A DOG?!
YES!!
EEE SHRIEK HEEEEE SHRIEK EEE
DON'T ASK ...
SHELTON

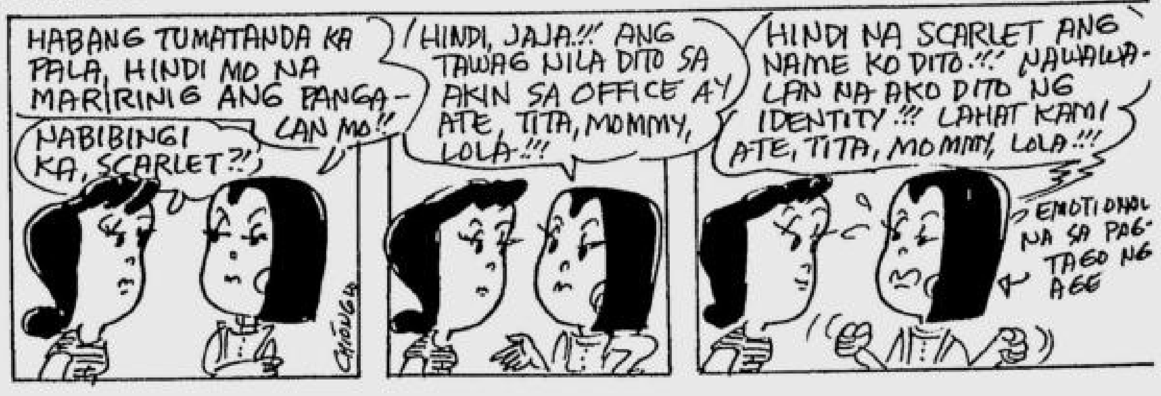
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE...GRABE HA!.. ANDAMI NANG MGA PINAPATAY! TSK!...
MGA UNION LEADER...
O'NGA...
MGA JOURNALIST... RADIO COMMENTATORS... MEDIA PEOPLE...
TA'S SA HACIENDA LUISITA ME' PINATAY NA NAMAN! PUTIK 'YAN O!...
GRABE...
ANO 'TONG SA SHOWBIZ? NA-"DEDO" SI SAM SA BAHAY NI KUYA..
HA?! NATANGGAL SI PAPA-SAM-MY-LOVE-FOREVER-TRULY?! AAAARRH! ANO BANG NANGYAYARI SA MUNDONG ITO?!!...

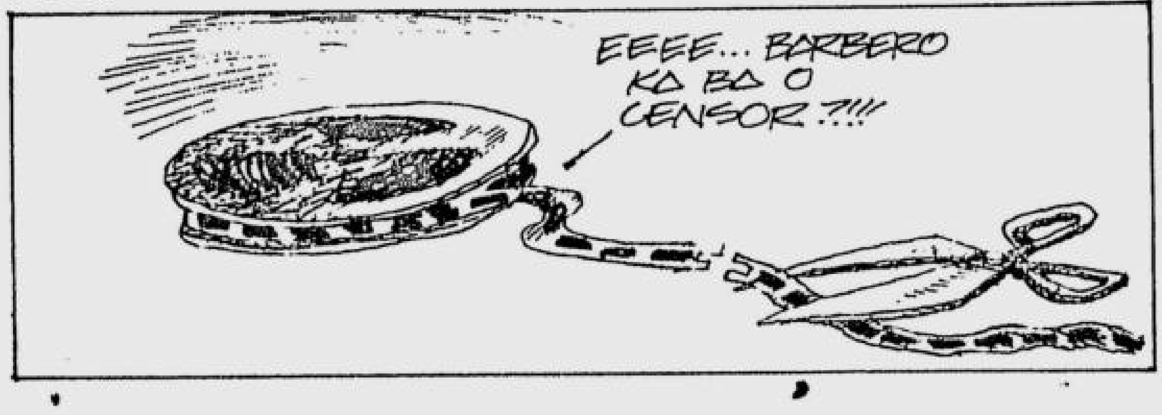
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HABANG TUMATANDA KA PALA, HINDI MO NA MARIRINIG ANG PANGALAN MO!!
NABIBINGI KA, SCARLET?!
HINDI, JAJA!!! ANG TAWAG NILA DITO SA AKIN SA OFFICE AY ATE, TITA, MOMMY, LOLA!!!
HINDI NA SCARLET ANG NAME KO DITO!!! NAWALAN NA AKO DITO NG IDENTITY!!! LAHAT KAMI ATE, TITA, MOMMY, LOLA!!!
EMOTIONAL NA SA PAGTAGO NG AGE
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


EEEE... BARBERO KA BA O CENSOR?!!!

Inventors address needs of consumers

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

EVERY YEAR, THE FILIPINO inventors get a chance to exhibit their new creations with the goal of attracting potential investors. Having attended many of these events, we have become familiar with the old yet untiring inventors who have remained progressive and have kept up with new trends.

But it's the crop of budding wizards and their innovative work that draw us to the event organized by the Technology Application and Promotion Institute of the Department of Science and Technology. It is interesting to see what new things they have to offer.

And every time we view their exhibit, we remember the words of scientist Fortunato T. de la Peña, who described this crop of inventors as "the Philippines' breed of bright men quietly working in backyard workshops and makeshift laboratories, who likely improvise their tools and equipment, and oftentimes use their own resources."

We had a chance again to view the inventors' fair held at the Philippine Trade and Training Center before it ended last Monday. As we have done before, we started with the inventions for industries, saving for last what we considered the best part of the exhibit. These were the small but no less important inventions that promised to make things more convenient for us consumers.

Simple needs

What we saw made us proud of Pinoy ingenuity. Their inventions might not be earthshaking breakthroughs in science, but they did address the consumers' simple needs.

High on our list, for example, was a special hospital bed with a push-button control that makes it easy for a caregiver to single-handedly move a patient weighing up to 300 pounds. The inventors were Dr. Billy Malang and Yasmin Malang (e-mail address humana@pldtdsl.net).

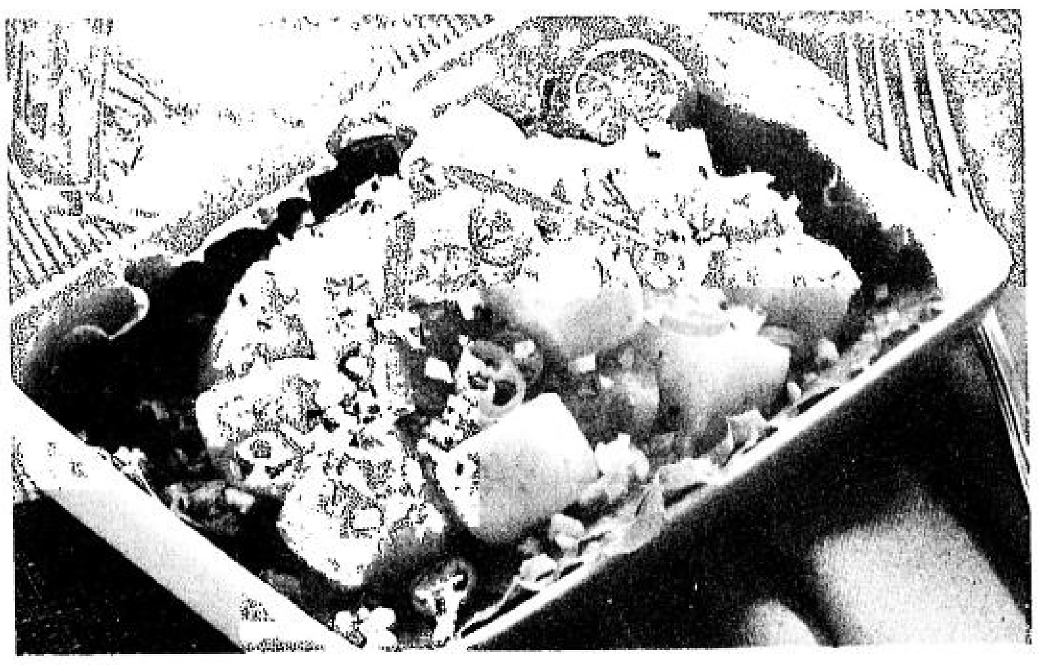
Also designed for caregivers was a lightweight carrier for the easy transfer of patient to and from the bed, as well as from the bed to a wheelchair, vehicle, bathroom, etc. It came with a sleek carry-along bag. Designer was Rainier B. Villanueva (tel. 7256470).

Other inventions that promised to make life easy for consumers were:

- Smart tools for plastic water pipes developed by veteran inventor Dr. Antonio F. Mateo (tel. 9613919 and 9613925) that would benefit water utility companies, as well as homeowners
- Novel frying equipment with a faucet that drains oil, prevents aftertaste in food, lowers fatty acid and stops oil spillage; developed by food technologist Sonia de Leon (99 Mother Ignacia Avenue, QC)
- Portable compost-tea brewer for making organic liquid fertilizer that is safe to use for vegetables and garden plants; designed by James Fos Reamon (tel. 0917-2790831 and e-mail address naphrotina@yahoo.com)
- Rice beer fortified with multivitamins formulated by Dr. Billy Malang and Yasmin Malang
- Combination power grater and coconut screw press developed by Aurelio Salas (St. Vincent St., Judyville Subdivision, Sibulan, Oriental Negros)
- Coco meat stove, a smoke-free stove using coconut meal as fuel, an alternative to petroleum-based fuel, invented by Rufino Mata (Guiwanon, Bantayan, Cebu)

Also on exhibit were new technologies for agriculture, computers, beauty enhancement, health and personal care and more.

Readers who want to know more about the new inventions can write to Nilo Sta. Agueda at TAPI-Department of Science and Technology, Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manjla. Call 8372071 to 82.



KINILAW na Tanigue

Prepare a merry Christmas spread

MAYA KITCHEN IS OFFERING cooking classes from the basics to Noche Buena fare.

The "Simbang Gabi Special" at 3-6 p.m., Nov. 26, will cover Bibingka Royale, Cassava Bibingka, Pichi-Pichi, Bibingkang Malagkit, Cuchinta and Maha Nangka. Also to be taught is how to make homemade *salabat*.

Preparing a festive holiday spread will be covered in "Christmas Eve Menu," 3-7 p.m., Dec. 3.

"Basic Baking" will be offered 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Nov. 29-Dec. 2. The class will discuss standard baking techniques, such as preparing different types of bread dough, quick breads, pastry dough and cookies, cakes and ready mixes. Participants each get a free cookbook.

"Basic Waitering and Bartending," 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Nov. 26, will cover basic setup, techniques on suggestive selling, proper serving and bussing out, napkin folding and skirting, bar tools and glass ware, classification of wine and spirits and simple garnish. Participants will learn actual mixing of cocktail drinks and wine tasting.

"Basic Cooking," 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Dec. 6-9, includes sessions on proper hygiene, sanitation and safety, nutrition and nutritional cooking; proper mis-en—place of mirepoix, stocks, soups, sauces, marinades, use of herbs and spices combinations; proper purchasing and storage; techniques of disjointing and boning poultry, filleting fish and meat fabrication. Participants will do actual preparation of dishes from appetizer, salad, eggs, pasta, seafoods, poultry and meats, and dessert, including garnishing for plate presentation. They each get a free "Mix & Match" cookbook.

Maya Kitchen is at the 8/F, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 8921185/5011 local 108. E-mail mkitchen@ultimate.info.com.ph

Home-style Filipino recipes

LOLA MARIA, THE MAIN DINING outlet of The Legend Villas, offers Filipino home-style cooking.

Themed lunch buffets are offered Monday-Friday, with fresh oysters and seafood on Thursday.

Here are some all-time favorite recipes cooked the Lola Maria way:

Chicken Binakol

3 tbsp lard
6 cloves garlic, crushed
1 medium-sized onion, chopped
1 tbsp thinly sliced ginger
3 tbsp *patis*
1 chicken (about 1 k), de-boned and thinly sliced, 1-inch square
6 c chicken stock (from chicken bones)
1 *buko*, cut into bite-size pieces (save water)
Salt and pepper to taste

Sauté garlic, onion and ginger in lard. Add *patis* and let boil. Add chicken and stir, then pour in the chicken stock. Simmer for 30 minutes or until chicken is tender. Add the *buko* water and meat. Season with salt and pepper.

Kinilaw na Tanigue

80 g *tanigue* fillet
150 ml vinegar for washing
1 ¼ tbsp vinegar
1 pc calamansi
1 pinch salt
1 pinch white pepper
½ tsp sugar
6 g onion white, diced
3 g chili *labuyo*, chopped
8 g radish, chopped
1 g onion spring, diced
8 g cucumber, chopped
3 g ginger, chopped
10 g lettuce, cleaned

Wash cubed fish in vinegar then drain.

In a bowl, mix all the ingredients except the lettuce. Chill in the refrigerator to marinate. Line serving dish with lettuce and place the prepared fish mixture.

Serve chilled.

The Legend Villas is at Pioneer cor. Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City. Call 6331501/10. Visit www.legendvillas. com.ph

PAUL MASSON
California's Best Value Win
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Coco recipe book is out

ANNIE Pascual Guerrero

ANNIE P. GUERRERO's book "Cooking with Coconut" will be launched Nov. 30, at PowerBooks, Greenbelt 4.

The launch will feature a cooking demo of some recipes featured in the book.

Aside from recipes, the book also contains cooking trivia and a glossary of terms.

The author is the only Filipino culinary professional certified by the International Association of Culinary Professionals of the United States. She is the founder-president of the Cravings Group and the Center for Culinary Arts, (CCA) Manila, the first culinary school in the Philippines and the only one awarded a "Superbrands" status.

Call 4264840 to 41 or visit www.ccamanila.com.

LAING

Be SUPER SEXY
Marie France's 20th Anniversary

Marie France celebrated its 20th anniversary last November 11, 2005 with the beautiful Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez, gorgeous Carmi Martin and slimmer, sexier Lyn Ching-Pascual. Editors from top publications graced the momentous event to unravel the secrets of the three women on how they have achieved and maintained that perfect sexy body.

To toast Marie France's 20 successful years, MF-Makati Manager Janet Vergara presented the 3 endorsers with Tiffany bracelets.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

Lyn Recommends...
"My 2 favorite treatments are Vara Pulse and VelaSmooth. Vara Pulse because it helps slim down my thighs and VelaSmooth because not only do I get to sleep throughout the session, it really works for me."

Carmi Recommends...
"It's still Endermologie for me. It's SO effective. You can really feel it sucking away all those flabs. After my EDM session, I really feel *yabang*... because I feel so slim here (referring to tummy and waistline). Also the VelaSmooth, it lifts the butt. After the treatment, you really feel like it has reshaped your rear end like J.Lo's."

Cristina Recommends...
"My most favorite among all is Endermologie. It really shapes my body and I feel that it's really *nakakapayat*. VelaSmooth *naman* is so relaxing because it's warm...it's good to combine both."

MF-Makati Manager with VIP client Angela Montenegro-Arroyo

marie france

THE SAFE AND SURE WAY
"Nowadays everything is available technology-wise, so women have more slimming options. They can choose the most suitable for them but my advice to women is to choose wisely and be careful where you go. With Marie France there are no risks... everything is non-invasive so you're safe."

marie france

AGELESS BEAUTY
"My friends often tell me that I still look fabulous. While others have started to look older, Marie France continues to make me look sexy and beautiful."

Friends from Marie Claire, Good Housekeeping and Preview joined the celebration.

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Is intelligence enough?

LIFE SKILLS FOR YOUR CHILD
IQ gets him through school, EI gets him through life.

A seminar on the latest in child development featuring

Dr. Marc Brackett
from Yale University

November 29, 2005, 3 - 5 pm
Manila Peninsula Hotel

Call for ticket sales and details.
(8 am - 5 pm weekdays)

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(02) 638-77-99

Limited seats only.

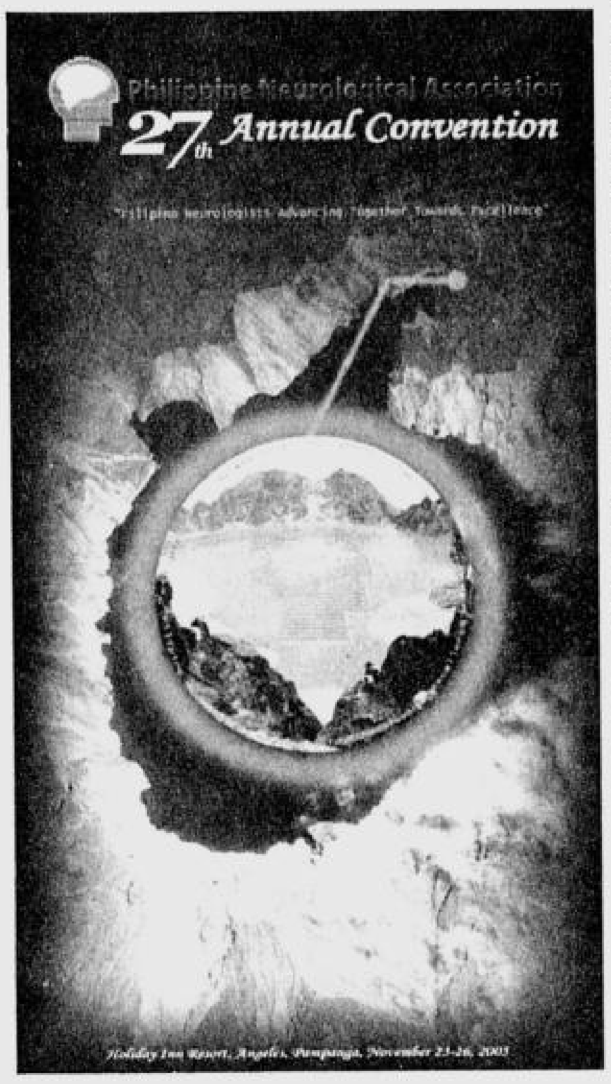
As revealed by continuous research on child development, it is now more apparent that a child's future success is greatly influenced by the dynamic interaction between his emotional and mental intelligence. Learn more about the synergistic role of emotional intelligence (EI) and intelligence quotient (IQ), tips on raising emotionally intelligent children, and new ways of managing and understanding child behavior.

Proceeds from the seminar will fund the supplemental feeding program of 100 children from the DSWD's KBF Day Care Center.

27th PNA Annual Convention

A showcase of Filipino excellence in neurology

Filipino neurologists who have made their mark in the international arena take center stage in this year's convention of the Philippine Neurological Association to be held at Mimosa Holiday Inn, Angeles City from Nov. 24-26. The theme of the convention, which is expected to draw around 400 participants, is "Filipino Neurologists: Advancing Together Toward Excellence".


Philippine Neurological Association
27th Annual Convention
"Filipino Neurologists: Advancing Together Towards Excellence"
Holiday Inn Resort, Angeles, Pampanga, November 23-26, 2005

. Invited to deliver lectures on cutting-edge topics and trends in neurology include Dr. Elson So, a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and currently head of electroencephalogram unit at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota; Dr. Virgilio Evidente, a UP College of Medicine alumnus and a movement disorder specialist at Mayo Clinic; Dr. Rupert Exconde, a UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery graduate and assistant professor in neurology at the University of Minnesota; Dr. Hubert Fernandez, a graduate of Virgen Milagrosa University in San Carlos City and currently director of clinical trials for movement disorders at University of Florida; Dr. Albert Ty, a UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery graduate who is now based in Singapore; and Dr. Robert Gan, a UP College of Medicine graduate and consultant at the National Neuroscience Institute in Singapore.

"For the first time, the entire faculty consists of Filipino neurologists who have excelled here and abroad," said Dr. Romeo Enriquez, president of PNA. "Likewise, for the first time, we have a considerable number of foreigners coming to attend the convention."

At least 15 foreign neurologists will be on hand, this time not as speakers but as participants. "We aim to give the PNA convention an international scope," said Dr. Raymond Rosales, overall chair of the convention.

The three-day event will feature not only plenary sessions tackling the latest advances in epilepsy, movement disorder, neuro-oncology and stroke, but also lectures on neurological disorders for general practitioners and specialists from other disciplines. There will be workshops and breakfast experts meeting to beef up the knowledge of neurologists in sub-specialty areas.

One of the highlights of the convention is the Gilberto Gamez Memorial Lecture to be delivered by Dr. Elson So. Another highlight is the presentation, for the first time, of the results of the joint research of PNA and Food and Nutrition Research Institute on the nationwide prevalence of stroke, epilepsy, dementia, headache and Parkinson's disease.

Participants will also be treated to scientific paper presentation contests and poster paper viewing, according to Dr. Johnny Lokin, chair of the convention's scientific committee.

The president of the World Federation of Neurology, Dr. Jun Kimura of Japan, will grace the closing ceremony and conferred the honorary fellow status by the PNA.

Founded in 1972, PNA has around 250 members nationwide.

Message

Malaus co pu queng balen mi.

I wish to welcome all of you, participants and speakers on the 27th Annual Convention of the Philippine Neurological Association.

The organizing committee, ably headed by Dr. Raymond L. Rosales, has done a wonderful job in making this annual meeting unique and special. The Theme "The Filipino Neurologists: Advancing Together Toward Excellence" is based on the latest vision of the PNA. "We are recognized internationally as one of the leading neurological associations in Asia in the delivery of neurological care, education and research". For the first time the entire faculty consists of expert Filipino neurologists who have excelled here and abroad. And likewise, for the first time, we have a considerable number of foreigners coming to attend the convention.

The scientific program is likewise excellent. The pre-convention post graduate course shall focus primarily on the approach to diagnosis to be attractive to non neurologists. Simultaneously, there will be pre-convention symposia on Vascular Dementia, Botulinum Toxin and Neurosonology. The topics for the main convention are likewise very interesting and will not likely be missed by most of us.

It is hoped, that, even if we are actually pursuing to improve the delivery of neurological care, education and research for our compatriots, the eventual beneficiaries are our friends in the Asian region.

As a Capampangan, I welcome you all to my home province. Though we could not offer spectacular tourist destinations, I just hope that everyone will find time to have a taste of our local cuisine... from the pastillas of Magalang, the petitos of Manibaug... to the sisig of Aling Lucing.

Miakit tamu queng Holiday Inn...

Romeo Yi Enriquez, MD

History of the Philippine Neurological Association

IN 1938, the Philippine Society of Psychiatry and Neurology was organized. It was very active and prolific as manifested in its journal The Philippine Journal of Psychiatry and Neurology. The neurologists who were members of the society and who had just arrived from training abroad did not feel comfortable in the said society because psychiatry was the main thrust and most of the members were almost wholly from the National Mental Hospital.

In 1967, Dr. Gilberto Gamez, Dr. Tim Jimenez, Dr. Victor Reyes, Dr. Roger Baisas, Dr. Braulio Idea, Dr. Marina Mendoza, and Dr. Martesio Perez convened the Neuroscience Society. Dr. Gamez was elected as chairman of the society. The ensuing discussions were so exhausting that no other meeting was called.

In 1973, when Dr. Lourdes Ladrido Ignacio was the president of the Philippine Society of Psychiatry and Neurology, the Philippine Board of Psychiatry and Neurology was organized with Dr. Jaime Zaguirre as its first chairman, Dr. Cesarea Godoco Agular as vice chairman of Psychiatry, and Dr. Gilberto Gamez as vice chairman of Neurology. Dr. Reynaldo Rivera was inducted fellow of the Philippine Society of Psychiatry and Neurology. Even as this developed, there was already a move among neurologists to form a separate society.

At about this time, Dr. Alfredo Bengzon succeeded in getting together a handful of neurologists. After a series of meetings at the Medical City (at that time called the ABM Sison Hospital), this group of neurologists formed the Philippine Association of Neurology, Inc. (PAN) which eventually evolved into the Philippine Neurology Association (PNA). Dr. Gilberto Gamez was elected president, in absentia, Dr. Alfredo Bengson was elected vice president, and Dr. Lillian Lee was elected secretary-treasurer. The other founding members were Dr. Robert Ang of Chinese General Hospital, Dr. Caridad Cruz and Dr. Reynaldo Rivera of Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital, Dr.Joven Cuanang of UERM Medical Center, Dr. Artemio Ordinario and Dr. Paulino Tenchavez of UST, and Dr. Braulio Idea and Dr. Martesio Perez of the UP-PGH.

In 1974, the Philippine Medical Association accepted the PNA as one of its component affiliate specialty societies. When this occurred, Dr. Lourdes Ladrido Ignacio, then president of the old Philippine Society of Psychiatry and Neurology, together with other colleagues, decided to form the Philippine Psychiatry Association, so that the old mother society became extinct, as well as the board which was organized in 1973.

In 1974, Dr. Cora Rivera, Dr. Gloria Lopez, Dr. Ed Jurilla and Dr. Jesus Poblete were inducted under the grandfather's clause. In January 1978, the PNA specialty board conducted the first written examination for certification. This was followed by the oral examination in June 1978 of Dr. Jose Navarro. He became the first fellow certified by the PNA specialty board and was inducted in 1978. To date, there have been more than 258 neurologists certified by the board.

The six training institutions that have accredited residency training program in neurology are: 1) University of Sto.Tomas, 2) University of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital, 3) University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, 4) Makati Medical Center, 5) Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, and the 6) St. Lukes Institute of Neurosciences. The training programs of these institutions are continuously reviewed and re-certified.

In 1992, the Child Neurology Specialty Board was created with Dr. Lillian Lee as its first chair. The board administers examinations to accredited institutions including the Philippine Children's Medical Center, UP-PGH Medical Center Pediatrics Department, and UST Pediatric Neurology section. The following year, 1993, Child Neurology Society, Philippines was organized with Dr. Lillian Lee as its first president.

The PNA Outreach Program was started in 1982 by Dr. Lillian Lee. It was patterned after the Pediatric Society regional systems network where residents and practitioners are taught in modular form the basics of pediatric practice.

In cooperation with the pharmaceutical industry, the PNA has been conducting outreach programs in all parts of the Philippines to provide up to date information and even basic information and skills to the general practitioners. A group of neurologists go to different places every 3 to 4 months and discuss common neurological problems as well as conduct wet clinics. In addition, the different PNA-accredited institutions also conduct their own yearly or biannual outreach programs. Linkages have also been initiated with the Department of Health particularly with respect to stroke and epilepsy.

Locally, the PNA has already organized and hosted 27 annual scientific conventions since 1978. In the international scene the PNA hosted AOCN congress twice: the 5th AOCN congress in 1979 which was chaired by Dr. Gilberto Gamez and 10th AOCN congress chaired by Dr. Amado San Luis. The Asean Neurological Association (ASNA) was organized in 1994 at Fort Ilocandia on the occasion of the 16th PNA convention. The first biennial convention of ASNA was held in Manila in 1995 chaired by Dr. Simeon Marasigan. The 5th biennial ASNA convention was held in Cebu City in 2003 and was chaired by Dr. Carlos Chua.

PNA Vision

We are recognized internationally as one of the leading neurological associations in Asia in the delivery of quality neurological care, education and research.

PNA Mission Statement

- ***We are physicians dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in the delivery of neurological care, education, and research.***
- ***We commit ourselves to a progressive and proactive role in the promotion of health and well being of the Filipino people.***
- ***We adhere to the practice of professional and ethical standards while ensuring the growth and welfare of our members.***

PNA FOUNDING MEMBERS

Robert Ang, MD
Alfredo R.A. Bengzon, MD
Joven R. Cuanang, MD
Caridad Cruz, MD
Gilberto L. Gamez, MD
Braulio Idea, MD
Lillian V. Lee, MD
Artemio T. Ordinario, MD
Martesio C. Perez, MD
Reynaldo D. Rivera, MD
Paulino S. Tenchavez, MD

PAST PRESIDENTS

Gilberto L. Gamez, MD† 1972-1973
Alfedo R.A. Bengzon, MD 1974-1975
Joven R. Cuanang, MD 1976-1977, 1978-1979
Artemio T. Ordinario, MD 1980-1981
Lillian V. Lee, MD 1982-1983
Jesus F. Poblete, MD 1984-1985
Brigido L. Carandang, MD 1986-1987
Martesio C. Perez, MD 1988
Jose C. Navarro, MD 1989
Ma. Felicidad A. Soto, MD 1990
Bernardo L. Conde, MD 1991
Fe E. Bacsal, MD 1992
Abdias V. Aquino, MD 1993
Mayvelyn D. Gose, MD 1994
Simeon M. Marasigan, MD 1995
Amado M. San Luis, MD 1996
Ester S. Bitanga, MD 1997
Ramon S. Javier, MD 1998
Philip A. Ramiro, MD 1999
Servando T. Liban II, MD 2000
Alejandro C. Baroque II, MD 2001
Artemio A. Roxas Jr., MD 2002
Raymond L. Espinosa, MD 2003
Carlos L. Chua, MD 2004

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REGION 2
PHILIPPINE SEA
REGION 3
National Capital Region
REGION 5
REGION 4
REGION 8
SOUTH CHINA SEA
REGION 6
REGION 7
REGION 13
REGION 10
SULU SEA
REGION 9
Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
REGION 12
CELEBES SEA
REGION 11

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MA. SOCORRO O. ALEJANDRINO
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RAQUEL M. ALVAREZ
ENCARNITA R. AMPIL
MICHELLE VEEDA ANLACAN
MARIA GRACE S. ANG
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NATALIE EMPERATRIZ P. APAGA
ABDIAS V. AQUINO
ERMINILDA L. AVENDAÑO
MARIA LETICIA C. ARAULLO
FE E. BACSAL
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POMPEIA BANZON
MARIA PIA REGINA T. BANICO
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JULETTE F. BATARA
ALFREDO R.A. BENGZON
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NANNETTE DOMINGO REYES
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"Time is Brain!"

Swift & Multi-Disciplinary Response is the Key to Surviving A "Brain Attack"

St. Luke's Stroke Center has institutionalized the treatment of stroke by bringing together specialists into one team. The first of its kind in the Philippines, the multi-disciplinary team is committed to respond to stroke patients within the first few critical minutes, thereby lessening the degenerative effects of a "brain attack."

What is a stroke and how does it affect a patient? A stroke or "brain attack" occurs when a blood clot blocks a blood vessel or artery, or when a blood vessel breaks, interrupting blood flow to an area of the brain. When a brain attack occurs, it kills brain cells in the immediate area. These cells usually die either within minutes or up to a few hours after the stroke starts. When brain cells die, control of abilities, which that area of the brain once controlled, is lost. This includes functions such as speech, movement, and memory. The specific abilities lost or affected depend on where in the brain the stroke occurs and on the size of the stroke (i.e. the extent of brain cell death). Among the symptoms of stroke are: sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; and sudden severe headache with no known cause. Immediate medical attention must be accorded a patient to minimize possible long-term effects or even death. "A lot of people still don't realize a stroke is an emergency. It's the number 1 cause of disability in the world today. Needless to say, what's essential to lessen its impact and complications is to treat it fast," according to Dr. Joven R. Cuanang, neurologist and St. Luke's Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs and Medical Director.

As the undisputed leader in quality and world-class health care in the country, St. Luke's Medical Center is the first and only Philippine facility to concretize the idea of a one-stop, multi-disciplinary "brain attack" response unit called the Stroke Center. "We already have protocols in place that prioritize patients who are having an emergency like a stroke," says Dr Cuanang.

The Stroke Center is the country's first dedicated in-patient stroke unit that offers state-of-the-art management of patients with brain infarction, brain hemorrhage and other cerebral vascular diseases. It provides comprehensive diagnostic and therapeutic care of patients with disorders of blood vessels of the brain and spinal cord including ischemic stroke, transient ischemic attack (commonly known as "minor stroke"), carotid stenosis and vascular malformations of the brain. It has a team of trained experts and existing protocols, including one where the staff alerts the center's team once they see signs of a stroke. The basic premise is that a patient must be attended to at the crucial first 45 minutes of a stroke. Since the staff is trained and their reaction is swift, a patient has better chances of recovering thus lessening possible irreparable damage. The reasoning is basically the same. The longer the brain is deprived of oxygen, the more likely a patient will suffer permanent physical damage. Dr Cuanang is one of the founders of the Stroke Society of the Philippines. He spearheaded the creation of SLMC's Stroke Center program with the vision of providing Filipinos the best chance possible to survive at the onset of the condition. The Stroke Team, composed of ER physicians and nurses, the country's top neurologists, neurosurgeons, radiologists and pharmacists, help to coordinate stroke care the moment the patient arrives at the emergency room, during rehabilitative treatment and long after recovery.

Core members of the St. Luke's Stroke Team (from left to right) Doctors Peter D. Rivera, Manuel M. Mariano, Abdias V. Aquino and Cristina Z. San Jose

Rapid identification of acute stroke patients enables the early administration of effective and appropriate stroke therapies on a 24/7 basis. Stroke Center head, Neurologist Abdias V. Aquino, M.D. says that "... the hospital has provided us with valuable resources to achieve our goal of elevating stroke management and patient care to a new and higher level." Dr. Manuel Mariano, Director of St Luke's Institute for Neurosciences adds, "If you look at all the medical centers in the country, only St Luke's has a brain attack team. This brain attack team will respond within minutes."

The team's multi-disciplinary collaborations likewise adds to treatment and management success by incorporating recent developments not only in emergency medicine and stroke neurology but in related specialized areas like minimally invasive neurosurgery, cerebrovascular surgery, interventional neuroradiology, stereotactic radiosurgery, neurointensive care, neuroanesthesiology and rehabilitation neurology.

The Stroke Center is also trying to diminish the recurrence of stroke through the LAFS program or Life After First Stroke. Through this program, they're also attempting to help improve the quality of life of patients after their first stroke. Because of its holistic approach along the entire continuum of care St. Luke's Stroke Center offers several unique advantages to help patients return to and maintain his or her highest level of function.

Dr. Peter Rivera, an interventional neuroradiology specialist and member of the SLMC Stroke Team said, "if you analyze the stroke centers abroad, you will see that there are two components to a good neurovascular center: one is that it should have a good team that knows everything about it, with a set of protocols that they follow; second is a hospital like St. Luke's that is very supportive so that the team can do what needs to be done."

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Knowing your neurologist

A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system.

Pediatric neurologists are doctors with specialized training in children's neurological disorders.

A neurologist's educational background and medical training includes an undergraduate degree, four years of medical school, a one-year internship and four years of specialized training in neurology. Many neurologists also have further educational training and special interest in stroke, epilepsy, movement disorders and other subspecialties of neurology.

What is the role of a neurologist?

Neurologists maybe principal care providers or consultants to other physicians. When a patient has a primary neurologic disorder, a neurologist is often the principal care provider. Patients with disorders such as Stroke, Epilepsy, CNS infection, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease or Multiple Sclerosis may have a neurologist as their principal care physician.

In a consulting role (or a referral), a neurologist will diagnose and make appropriate recommendations on the treatment of the neurological disorder and then advise the primary attending physician.

Neurologists may recommend surgery as an option in treating a neurologic disorder; however, they do not perform surgery, but will monitor surgically treated patients and supervise their continuing wellness. Neurosurgeons are doctors who specialize in performing surgery of the brain or other parts of the nervous system.

What does a neurologist treat?

Neurologists treat disorders of the nervous system, which includes the brain, spinal cord, nerves, muscles and pain. Common neurological disorders include:

Stroke
Epilepsy
CNS infections
Headache
Parkinson's disease
Alzheimer's disease
Multiple Sclerosis
Sleep disorders
Brain and spinal cord injuries
Brain tumors
Peripheral nerve disorders
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Understanding epilepsy

Not so long ago, epilepsy was considered a form of mental illness or intellectual deficiency. Families, ashamed or fearful of discrimination, sent their children with epilepsy away to institutions, or kept them at home and out of school. Some places in the United States even forbade people with epilepsy to marry. Despite the stigma associated with the disease, some individuals with epilepsy have made an enormous impact in our history and the shape of our lives today. These include Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Napoleon Bonaparte, G.F. Handel, Vincent Van Gogh, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo Bounarrotti, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Charles Dickens, and Thomas Edison.

What is epilepsy?

Epilepsy is not a disease but a condition that arises because the brain's electrical impulses work improperly. The normal electrical signals that the brain sends back and forth to tell the body how to behave misfire in such a way that excessive bursts of electrical activity occur in the brain. These bursts of electrical activity are called seizures. In order for seizures to be classified as epilepsy, they must happen repeatedly.

Because a seizure temporarily disturbs one or more of the brain's functions, changes may occur in the person's perceptions, awareness, movement, or behavior. Seizures can cause a person to fall down, make jerking motions with an arm or leg, lose bowel or bladder control, or bite his or her tongue or lips. The skin may turn blue due to shallow breathing, which decreases the amount of oxygen carried in the blood. Other seizures have far more subtle effects: the person might simply stare into space, be unable to speak, or experience odd sensations - smells, sounds, and visual perception - while still maintaining consciousness throughout. The specific symptoms exhibited during a seizure will reflect which part of the brain has had the electrical disruption.

Evaluations needed to diagnose epilepsy

Physical and neurological examinations are used to uncover any evidence of disease of the nervous system or other body parts. Some blood will be drawn to identify any recent infections, assess organ function, and spot metabolic problems.

Neurological tests such as EEG, CT, MRI, and PET scans are used to determine the parts of the brain involved in the seizures or whether there is a scar or tumor in the brain.

Most people with epilepsy will undergo some of these tests more than once, so it is useful to learn about their benefits and limitations.

Evaluation purpose

An accurate eyewitness account of one of your seizures, including the setting, duration, and changes in your awareness, behavior, movement, etc. helps the doctor determine seizure type and prescribe the most appropriate treatment and/or medication.

Your personal and family medical history helps narrow potential causes for your condition, including possible genetic causes.

A physical/neurological exam helps rule out medical problems that might be causing seizures.

Laboratory tests including blood, urine, etc. detect infection, anemia, an electrolyte imbalance, lead poisoning, kidney or liver damage, or bleeding in the brain.

Neurological tests, including EEG, brain imaging measure electrical activity in the brain; detect abnormalities such as malformations, tumors, blood clots, and scar tissue.

Emerging neurotoxins in the Philippines

A NEUROTOXIN IS ANY SUBSTANCE, natural or synthetic, that may dysfunction the nervous system. There are over a thousand chemicals in existence today and many of them have significant neurologic effects. The top two poisons reported in the statistics of the National Poison Management and Control Center are ethanol, a central nervous system depressant, and methamphetamine, a stimulant. Other neurotoxic substances in the top 10 list of agents in poisoning cases include pharmaceuticals like isoniazid and benzodiazepines and pesticides like pyrethroids, carbamates and organophosphates.

In recent years, there has been a growing number of reported cases of poisoning from toxins that have dramatic effects on the nervous system. Cyanide is a cellular poison that interferes with the utilization of oxygen at the mitochondrial level. Although cyanide is a restricted substance, its use is poorly regulated. Fishermen use it to catch fish and the silver jewelry enterprise finds it useful to clean the silver. Its availability to the general public has caused many tragic loss of lives mainly from accidental ingestion. Ingestion of jewelry cleaning agents brings on a rapid sequence of events, characterized by vomiting and lethargy, leading to coma. Convulsions frequently occur. Bluish discoloration of the lips and nail beds are often seen. Fortunately, cyanide is one of the poisons for which there are known antidotes. In the Philippine General Hospital, sodium nitrite and thiosulfate are administered consecutively as antidotes for cyanide poisoning. The loss of lives from cyanide is preventable if only the public could be more vigilant in the proper storage and use of this dangerous chemical.

Ciguatoxin is a marine toxin produced by the dinoflagellate Gambierdiscus toxicus. Poisoning from ciguatoxin arises when humans partake of fish that has fed on microalgae where the dinoflagellates are found. The medium sized-fish like the lapu-lapu grouper and the barracuda are most often implicated in the poisoning because they feed in the coral reefs where the algae grow. Symptoms of the poisoning include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. The most bothersome complaints are muscle pain, tingling and numbness of the lips, tongue and throat.

Unlike cyanide, there is no antidote for ciguatoxin poisoning. Harmful algal blooms have been responsible for some of the outbreaks of marine toxin poisoning in the Philippines. Their relationship to global warming is not known for sure. But there is some evidence that bacteria such as Pseudomonas and Vibrio species that may have contaminated coastal waters from human activities may be in part responsible for the production of the different toxins. Perhaps until humans can learn how to live more harmoniously with nature, we will continually be confronted with such conflicts, where survival here on earth is the core issue.

Societies with Memorandum of Affiliation / Collaboration with the Philippine Neurological Association

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Role of stroke units in the management of cerebrovascular diseases

Many things have been said and written about stroke in recent years. Most articles were aimed at increasing the awareness of this dreaded neurological disease. Stroke has become the leading cause of adult disability and the second leading cause of mortality worldwide following heart disease. In addition, the economic burden and impact of stroke is astounding especially in a developing country like the Philippines. Stroke often leads to loss or reduction in productivity and income not only among stroke survivors but also family members who participate in the care of stroke victims.

There are currently three interventions that have shown benefit for acute stroke. Aspirin reduces ischemic stroke recurrence, death and disability. Intravenous recombinant tissue plasminogen activator (IV rT-PA) has been approved as thrombolytic therapy for acute ischemic stroke within the three-hour time window. Organized stroke care in stroke units has been shown to have the overall largest impact of all available therapies in the acute phase of stroke. Several international and local stroke guidelines have recommended the use of these treatments.

Stroke unit: What is it? Will it benefit patients?

A stroke unit is a designated or distinct hospital unit that exclusively takes care of stroke patients with specially trained staff and multidisciplinary approach to treatment and care. Key features of the unit are: structured program for stroke evaluation, monitoring and treatment, early patient mobilization and rehabilitation, multidisciplinary team of medical and paramedical personnel, involvement of the patient and family in the care and rehabilitation process and continuous education and training of the staff.

In general, patients are admitted at the unit during the unstable phase (stroke occurring within the first 48 hours). Patients are either awake or may be somnolent or may have fluctuating or progressive neurological deficits. Immediate diagnosis, treatment and secondary prevention and frequent and careful monitoring are instituted. Patients usually stay in the unit for not more than seven days. Expectations in a stroke unit include improved survival chances, less disability, shorter length of hospital stay and rehabilitation.

The stroke unit is manned by a multidisciplinary stroke team. The team is usually headed by a physician (neurologist) and is composed of nurses, physiatrist, physical, speech and occupation therapists, nutritionists and other professionals who are interested, knowledgeable and trained in stroke care.

At present the following hospitals in the country are equipped with an Acute Stroke Unit: Cebu Doctors Hospital, Chong Hua Hospital, Chinese General Hospital, East Avenue Medical Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Lorma Medical Center (La Union), Lucena United Doctors Hospital, Makati Medical Center, Manila Central University Hospital, Manila Adventist Medical Center, The Medical City, Philippine General Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, San Juan de Dios Hospital, St. Luke's Medical Center, University of Sto. Tomas Hospital.

Migraine headache

Since ancient times, headache is considered as one of the common complaints of men. This may start during childhood, adolescence and adulthood. According to Dr. Regina Macalintal-Canlas, former chair of the PNA Headache Council, a headache can affect people from all walks of life and may render them incapacitated.

There are various kinds of headaches, namely migraine, tension-type and cluster headache. The most common is the migraine headache. It is characterized as moderate to severe unilateral pain, pulsating and aggravated by physical activities. It usually lasts four to seventy hours. The patient may feel nauseated or may actually vomit, and may be affected by bright or flickering lights and loud sounds.

The onset of pain may be heralded by reversible symptoms (aura). Different factors like menstruation, sleep, hunger, seasonal changes, different kinds of food etc. may precipitate an attack of pain. In adults, we have to be vigilant on the danger signals of headache such as sudden onset of new severe headache: first headache in adult; progressively worsening headache; onset with exertion, coughing, straining and/or sexual activity; and if there are associated symptoms such as drowsiness, confusion, memory loss, muscle or joint pain, fever, progressive visual disturbances, weakness, clumsiness or loss of balance. Then a neurologist should be consulted at the soonest possible time.

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Questions on Parkinson's disease

PARKINSON'S DISEASE (PD) BElongs to a group of conditions called "Movement Disorders". It is both chronic and progressive, meaning symptoms persist and worsen over time. It happens when a group of cells, in an area of the brain known as the Substantia Nigra, that produce a chemical called dopamine, begin to break down and die. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter or chemical messenger that transports signals to the parts of the brain that control the start of movement and coordination. This loss of dopamine impairs nerve cells functions and causes patients to lose the ability to direct or control their movement in a normal way.

There are four primary symptoms:

1. Tremor (at rest) of hands, arms, legs, jaw, and face
2. Rigidity or stiffness of the limbs and trunk
3. Bradykinesia or slowness of movement
4. Postural instability or impaired balance and coordination.

Early symptoms are often subtle and occur gradually.

Who gets Parkinson's disease?

Parkinson's disease is normally associated with advancing age, although it can also strike young adults - as in the well-known case of Michael J. Fox, or in middle age - as it has with Janet Reno. It is present worldwide and in all populations. The prevalence rate is slightly higher in men than in women. No race or particular region of the world has been found to be completely free of the disease.

How common is Parkinson's disease?

Parkinson's disease affects about one percent of the population over the age of 60 years in the United States. The estimated prevalence (the total number of people with the disease in a population at a given time) and incidence (number of new cases in a population during a given period of time) rates for Parkinson's disease are 120-180 per 100,000 and 20 per 100,000 in Caucasian populations, respectively.

What causes Parkinson's?

Why an individual develops Parkinson's disease is still uncertain. The causes are likely to include both environmental and genetic factors. Some of the mechanisms that are thought to cause accelerated cell death have been suggested, such as oxidative stress, excitotoxicity and mitochondrial dysfunction.

About 15-25 percent of patients with Parkinson's have a relative with the disease. There seems to be 2-3 times higher risk of PD in first degree relatives compared to corresponding controls. Researchers have discovered a defective gene in some rare families that have a high incidence of Parkinson's disease providing convincing evidence that genetics play a role in at least some patients.

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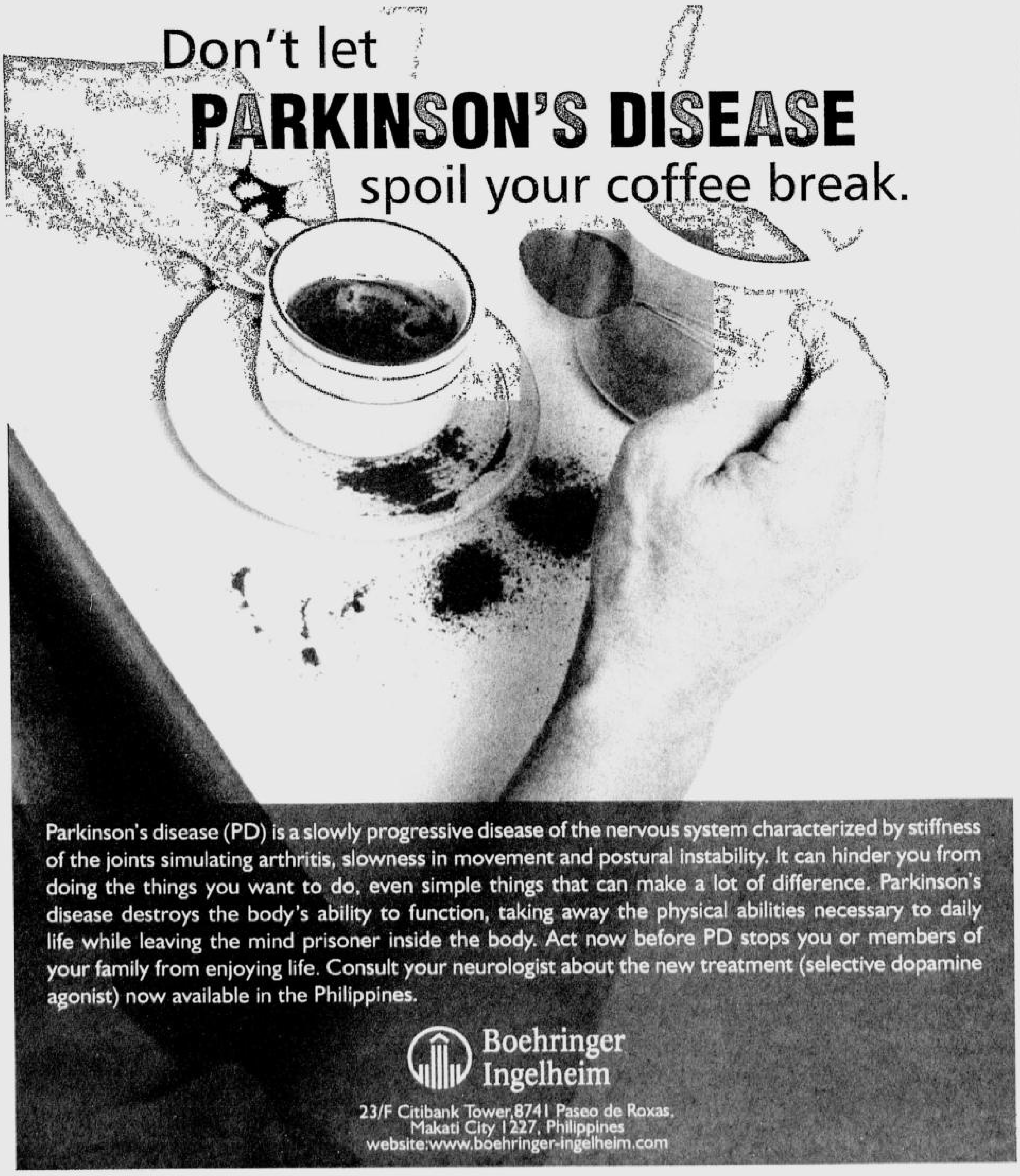

Parkinson's disease (PD) is a slowly progressive disease of the nervous system characterized by stiffness of the joints simulating arthritis, slowness in movement and postural instability. It can hinder you from doing the things you want to do, even simple things that can make a lot of difference. Parkinson's disease destroys the body's ability to function, taking away the physical abilities necessary to daily life while leaving the mind prisoner inside the body. Act now before PD stops you or members of your family from enjoying life. Consult your neurologist about the new treatment (selective dopamine agonist) now available in the Philippines.

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What is dementia?

DEMENTIA IS A MEDICAL TERM USED TO describe the clinical state characterized behaviorally by progressive impairment of the intellectual capacity of a person. Forgetfulness is a prominent feature. More than 60 causes of dementia have been identified so that it is important to diagnose the brain disease causing the dementia to be able to plan the proper treatment approach.

The probability of suffering from dementia increases with advancing age. The frequency of dementia rises with increasing age from 2 percent for those over 65 years old, to 5 percent for those over 75 years old, to more than 20 percent for those over 80 years old. Despite the facts pointing to a higher prevalence among the elderly, it is important to note that dementia is not a normal part of the aging process and that conditions causing dementia can affect younger as well as older persons.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common known type of dementia and accounts for more than half of the diagnosed cases of dementia. Vascular dementia or dementia due to diseases of the blood vessels of the brain accounts for another one fourth of all diagnosed cases.

Often the family or friends of the affected person are first to detect the problem. A typical early symptom is forgetfulness. As the illness progresses, other problems are noted regarding concentration, planning and judgment, personality, speech, and walking, all of which interfere with activities of daily living. In the final stage, various other body functions such as swallowing and the excretion process are also affected. Affected persons gradually lose their independence in managing everyday life so that they become more and more dependent on care.

The person affected by dementia is usually unable to visit a neurologist on their own initiative. He is usually brought in by the exhausted family seeking help in coping with the behavioral problems of the affected person.

The neurologist will conduct a general physical and neurological examination as well as gather a thorough medical history. The role of the family members is crucial at this point in providing the development of current symptoms of the affected person and history of similar disease in relatives.

A series of examination procedures are conducted involving psychometric tests, sometimes with questionnaires or a few exercises. The Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) is a commonly used test. Other examinations may include laboratory blood tests and possibly cerebrospinal fluid tests. The neurologist may carry out electroencephalography (EEG) or imaging diagnostics such as CT scan or MRI based on the presenting history and symptoms of the affected person.

Irreversible dementia not only affects the person but also the family and community of the affected person as most affected persons will require care in the long term. Care is usually provided at home but support and information should be provided to family caregivers regarding behavior management techniques, safety precautions for home care, and legal considerations. Some patients in the later part of the illness may need to be moved to a nursing home where specialized nursing care can be provided or uncontrolled disruptive behavior can be controlled.

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Living with neuropathic pain

Pain is an unpleasant sensation that normally occurs as a result of a stimulus such as extreme heat or an injury. It is the body's way of warning that it is being damaged so that the cause of the pain can be avoided or removed.

The body feels pain through special nerve endings called nociceptors that are found in the skin and throughout the body. When these nerve endings are activated - for instance, by touching a sharp knife blade - they send a message to the brain, via pain channels in the nerves, to warn of possible injury. This type of pain is called nociceptive pain.

Sometimes the feelings of pain can be caused by damage to the nerves that send pain messages to the brain (even when there is no pain stimuli). This is a different kind of pain known as neuropathic pain. This type of pain is usually long lasting and persistent which makes it very difficult to live with.

What causes neuropathic pain?

Neuropathic pain can occur as a result of many things. The common causes of neuropathic pain are:

Diabetic neuropathy - nerve damage caused by the effects of diabetes mellitus

Postherpetic neuralgia - prolonged pain following an attack of shingles (an infection of the nerves by the virus that causes chickenpox).

Trigeminal neuralgia - a disorder of the nerve of the face.

Spinal cord injury.

Diseases that can affect the nerves, such as cancer or multiple sclerosis.

Surgery - such as limb amputation, chest and abdominal operations.

What are the symptoms of neuropathic pain?

Physicians can distinguish neuropathic pain from other causes of pain as patients usually report a range of unusual and unpleasant sensations. People with neuropathic pain usually describe the feeling as: electricity, squeezing, deep aching, like sunburn, broken glass, jabbing, cramping and spasms.

Some people also experience sensations such as extreme cold, numbness, or the feeling of 'ants walking on their skin'.

One of the hallmarks of neuropathic pain is called 'allodynia' (pain resulting from a stimulus that does not usually cause pain). For example, people may feel pain as a result of a light touch to the skin. This can make everyday routine activities such as walking or dressing difficult. The pain can also interfere with the individual's work or sleep.

How is neuropathic pain treated?

Neuropathic pain is difficult to treat. One major problem is that standard pain-relieving medications have little effect. However, doctors have found that some medications used to treat epilepsy or depression can be effective in treating neuropathic pain. The choice of treatment will vary depending on the individual's condition and his or her response to therapy. It is unlikely that therapy will provide complete cure of the neuropathic pain but a more realistic goal is to reduce pain to a level that can be tolerated and allow a person to live a more normal life.

What other treatments are useful?

The effective treatment of neuropathic pain involves a combination of approaches. In addition to medications, there are a number of non-pharmacologic approaches that can be of benefit. These may include physical therapy and/or psychotherapy.

Contributors:

Glicerio Cecilio S. Alincastre, MD
Racquel M. Alvarez, MD
Alejandro C. Baroque II, MD
Carina Paz C. Dioquino, MD
Romeo Y. Enriquez, MD
Herminigido H. Gan, MD
Johnny K. Lokin, MD
Jose C. Navarro, MD
Martesio C. Perez, MD
Raymond L. Rosales, MD
Ma. Cristina Z. San Jose, MD

This supplement section is a project of the Advocacy Committee of the Philippine Neurological Association, and prepared with the assistance of Friendly Alliances and Media Expressions (FAME), Inc.

Celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary was just icing on the cake.

Dahil sa alaga ni Doktor at sa mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, he can live longer and more fruitfully, despite his heart disease.

For Lolo Andy, discovering he had heart disease when he was 60 made him fearful for his and his wife's future. The uncertainty darkened their blissful life. Pero salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor at ng mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, Lolo Andy today lives happily and fruitrully despite his heart disease. Sulit talaga ang gamot n'ya — gamot na gawa ng Pfizer! Pfizer not only saved his heart, it also helped him and his wife reach 50 years of a love-filled life together. Definitely a milestone worth living for! Sabi nga ni Lolo Andy, dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

Dapat Sulit.
Pfizer

Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants
2005 Annual National Convention

Gearing up for the globe

> Globalization revolutionizes the business landscape which makes it fitting that the convention features the urgent and vital issues as well as the concerns of the accounting profession and the CPAs, this according to convention committee chair Samuel Villacampa and host committee Gerard Sanvictores.

Members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) are converging for their annual national convention with Metro Manila as the location of choice. The delegates are led by its national president, Dave Balangue, and chair, George Villaruz.

Globalization revolutionizes the business landscape which makes it fitting that the convention features the urgent and vital issues as well as the concerns of the accounting profession and the CPAs, this according to convention committee chair Samuel Villacampa and host committee Gerard Sanvictores.

The event also allows the Manileños to showcase their hospitality among delegates from all over the country.

Villaruz said PICPAns from Metro Manila are more than enthusiastic to welcome and entertain their colleagues during this four-day affair.

This year's convention adopts the theme "Get on...Move on...to Global Competitiveness," as a new and exciting world unfolds for the profession and the CPAs. This new world introduces new business trends, practices, requirements, and standards that redefine the role of CPAs, as well as requires varied services, new competencies and firm values from the global accountant.

Registration was centralized at the Intercon Hotel in Makati yesterday and today while a satellite registration was set up at Fort Santiago today.

A "Business Opportunity" seminar is being conducted at Intercon. It covers lectures on franchising, business process outsourcing, insurance, and entrepreneurship.

On Wednesday, the chapter presidents and presidents-elect discussed the new PICPA policies, issues, and concerns of the chapters. It was capped off with a fellowship sponsored by the Metro Manila Region and Metro Manila Chapters.

The CPAs in education convene at the Letran College for the "Educators' Forum." They discussed the new Accountancy Education Syllabus that will take effect next year as well as Gray Areas in the Philippine Accounting Standards.

The delegation is grouped by sector for the technical session slated tomorrow. The Commerce and Industry Sector meets at the Mandarin Hotel; the Education Sector holds their technical sessions at the New World Hotel; the Government Sector convenes at the Intercon; while the Public Practice Sector gathers at the Heritage Hotel.

Each sector has as topic the main theme of the convention for the first technical session which focuses on globalization. During the sessions, the discussions dwell on four subtopics:

1) One Step Forward: Meeting Global Expectations (Global Trends for the Accountancy Profession); A new and exciting world has begun to unfold especially for CPAs in the new millennium. Characterized by a quickly changing environment, today's CPA is facing the challenges of globalization and economies sans frontiers. What are some of the trends that we should know and understand in each one of our four sectors of Commerce and Industry, Education, Government and Public Practice. How can the Philippine CPA capitalize on these changes and further enhance the quality of professional services rendered not only locally but also globally.

2) Global Competition: Hazards and Rewards (Threats and Opportunities of Global Competitiveness on the Accountancy Professions); With the accelerating pace of globalization, the Philippine CPA needs to be fully aware of the evolving environment surrounding the practice of accountancy, particularly from the view of one's practice sector. In the Asean region, for instance, the Philippines boasts of the biggest resource of qualified CPAs that is easy to mobilize and place, oftentimes to other developed economies in Europe and the Americas. How can we maximize the competitive edge of the Philippine CPA as a preferred, sought-after resource and thus enjoy the premium worth. How can the Philippine CPA harness the inherent advantage accorded by his present (and changing) environment? What scenario does the Philippine CPA face near- and medium-term.

3) The Philippine CPA in the Midst of Change in the Global Marketplace (Competencies vs Global Standards); No longer confined by local economic borders, the broadening vista opening up to the new mi[illegible]um's CPA is one marked by exciting developments. The Philippines is one of the few Asia-Pacific countries to be in full compliance this year on the harmonization of local with international standards. Viewed as a major competitive edge, this renders the Philippine CPA to be a much sought-after and capable resource internationally. Global market stakeholders, principally investors in publicly listed companies, underscore the important role that the Asean—or global-CPA plays toward transparency, corporate governance, and good business practices.

4) Our Roadmap to Quality Service Delivery (What we need to do: Our Action Plans). Each sector invited businessmen, luminaries of the accounting profession, government personalities, and officials and business gurus to share their thoughts and expertise on the topics.

Luncheon meeting of the four sectors zeros in on a light topic with Anthony Pangilinan and Francis Kong as speakers.

The afternoon technical sessions cover the following topics.

For Commerce and Industry: Business Process Outsourcing and the Impact of Sarbanes-Oxley Act For education: Readiness of Filipino Accounting Graduates to Global Requirements and BOA Updates;

For Government: E-Procurement Act; A Step to Globalization and Executive Order 366: How it affects the government CPAs; and

For Public Practice: Threats and Opportunities to Local Auditing Firms and Action Steps.

The Regional Awards and Fellowship staged at the poolside of Intercon is also one of the highlights of the convention.

The eight PICPA regions compete in a group dance competition dubbed as "Dances of the World." The best chapter and region awarding ceremony was also held during the fellowship.

On the last day of the convention, the plenary technical session will be held at the Manila Hotel. The topics include Continuing Professional Education, CPA Accreditation and Tax Updates. Top officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue are the speakers for the tax forum.

A luncheon meeting will be held at noon with BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Bunag as guest speaker.

The closing plenary will take place right after the luncheon meeting. This will be followed by the Annual Business Meeting.

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PICPA through the years

THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) is the accredited professional organization of CPAs in the country. The Institute was organized to enhance the practice of accountancy in the Philippines and to protect the integrity of the CPA certificate. Membership in the PICPA is restricted to registered CPAs.

The Institute is composed of eight regions, 89 local and 12 international chapters. PICPA is an active member of the Asean Federation of Accountants (AFA); International Federation of Accountants (IFAC); International Accounting Standards of Committee (IASC), and the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants (CAPA).

Objectives (1929-1969)

The Institute was founded in November 1929 by a group of illustrious pioneers in the accounting profession: Enrique Caguiat, Santiago dela Cruz, Francisco Dalupan, Jaime Hernandez, Felipe Ollada, Ramon del Rosario, Antonio Sanchez, Jose Torres, Artemio Tulio, Clemente Uson, and Jesus Zulueta.

The group set forth the following objectives:

- To promote and maintain high professional and ethical standards among accountants;
- To advance the science of accounting;
- To develop and improve accountancy education;
- To encourage cordial relations among accountants;
- To protect the Certificate of the Certified Public Accountant granted by the Republic of the Philippines.

William W. Larkin, holder of CPA Certificate No.1, became the first president of the Institute. It was during Larkin's time that the constitution and by-laws was created and drafted. The organization was then known as the Philippine Institute of Accountants.

The end of the war in 1947 marked changes for the Institute. Reforms were made and the Institute's constitution and by-laws were amended. National president Francisco T. Dalupan, together with the awesome pillars of the Institute, men who were either past national presidents (PNP) or who would later become national presidents themselves: Enrique Caguiat (1939-1940); Santiago dela Cruz (1941); and Jose L. Torres (1955); and with the indomitable assistance and inspiration provided by Sanchez and Uson, the Institute conducted the very First National Convention. It was also during this time that the "Newsette" was first published.

1951 was an active year for the institute. With Washington Sycip at the helm, different chapters were established. The first to be formed were the chapters in Iloilo and Negros Occidental. This was followed by Pangasinan and Davao chapters. The Accountants Journal was revived with Sycip, Tulio (who would be president in 1954), and Hernandez serving in the editorial board. This journal was distributed not only in the Philippines but to accounting bodies abroad as well. This introduced Picpa to other countries. On June 19 of the same year, the first mass oath-taking of new Certified Public Accountants was held at the Manila Hotel, a tradition that PICPA has continued to this day.

In 1953, Belen E. Gutierrez, the first lady CPA became the first lady president of the Institute. She initiated the participation of women in PICPA.

PICPA started to capture the attention of other countries when it hosted the First Far East Conference of Accountants in Manila in 1957. This major gathering was headed by then president Gregorio Licaros of Central Bank and Eduardo Villanueva who would be president in 1962. Accountants from Australia, China, Hong Kong, North Borneo, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sarawak, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam attended the event. In this forum, the need to establish the Confederation of Asian and Pacific Accountants was initially discussed.

Provincial chapters started hosting the Annual National Convention in 1958 during the term of Pascasio S. Banaria as president. The first provincial chapter to host was Cebu.

Worthy to note is Arsenio D. Narciso (1964) who will always be remembered for establishing the Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants. During his presidency, the Institute's old name was restored from Philippine Institute of Accountants to Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The celebration of the Accountancy Week started in 1966 during the term of Jesus A. Casiño. An executive order was issued by the President of the Philippines to recognize the importance of the accounting profession for the progress of our country.

The institute's house (1970s)

In 1974, with Carlos J. Valdes as the president, the PICPA house was constructed. This dream was made possible through the concerted effort of Valdes past national presidents Leonardo L. Cabanero, Lauro D. Abraham, and Juan P. de Villa Jr., all dedicated men who were instrumental in shaping PICPA into what it is today.

Eugenio R. Reyes served as national president for two consecutive

PICPA/ F3

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Messages

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) on your 2005 PICPA Annual National Convention.

Integrity, professionalism and excellence in the field of accountancy are the underlying values that PICPA has espoused through the years. As our nation moves toward achieving its goals of political stability and economic progress, accountancy will play an integral role in rebuilding stability and confidence in the business sector and in shaping our economic future.

Today's daunting challenges continue to test our strength as a nation. As we face these challenges, I am confident that PICPA will continue its active participation in nation-building with renewed vigor and with a strong set of values that would benefit our people.

I wish the success of your convention and Mabuhay!

(Sgd) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) on their 2005 Annual National Convention on November 23-26, 2005.

This year's theme "get on... move on... to Global Competitiveness" manifest the officers' and members' enthusiasm towards a continuing professional development in the field of accountancy.

The crisis in governance of the Philippine Republic includes the inability to establish prudent priorities and the growing disparity between promised performance and unsatisfactory end-results of public expenditures. Our government continues to grow swollen and flabby, spending more but accomplishing less. The costs of good intentions are getting excessive and unreasonable, even unnecessary. All these result in the increasing disenchantment with government. Evaluating the performance of government and pinpointing the accountability of offices and officials should not be an insurmountable task, if only we could be assured governments truly would want their officials and administration rigidly audited and evaluated.

I urge the officers and members of PICPA to seize this worthwhile opportunity to search for better ways to restore the confidence of the people in government, to delve on crucial issues of the day, explore avenues for further innovation, creativity and competitiveness, thereby contribute to the realization of our national development goals and ultimately lead this country towards lasting peace and prosperity.

(Sgd) FRANKLIN M. DRILON
Senate President
Republic of the Philippines

Greetings to all the officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) on the occasion of your annual national convention!

I hope you will have a productive convention along the lines of your theme this year, "get on... move on... to Global Competitiveness". Indeed, in this age of borderless economies, even professionals like us CPAs should do our very best to be globally competitive.

CPAs belong to a profession that requires high levels of competency, accuracy and dedication. Thus, it is incumbent upon us to continuously enhance our skills and know-how in order to better improve our professional selves. In this sense, your theme is indeed fitting and relevant.

I encourage all of you to keep up on working together to upgrade the standards of accountancy in our country, not just at par with other countries, but to an even higher level.

More power PICPAns! Keep up the good work!

(Sgd) MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.
Senator
Republic of the Philippines

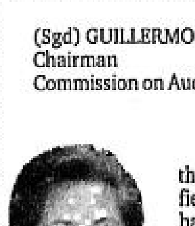
Greetings! and my warmest congratulations to the Officials of PICPA, organizers and participants to the 2005 PICPA Annual National Convention with the theme, "get on... move on... to GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS."

The globalization phenomenon from since the 80's has brought about a climate that pervasively enveloped man's universe, social, political and economic; and in all spheres, everything has gone at dizzying pace. In the world of finance and organizations, one has nowhere to go but move on, or before you know it, the world will have gone way out ahead, then catching up will prove worrisome and doubly expensive, in terms of lost opportunities, lackluster performance, or bleak directions among others. And this is true in the corporate as well as in public sector.

The Convention the "get on... move on... to GLOBAL COMPETITIVESS" should definitely be a very timely clarion call to all colleagues in the profession.

Again, "Congratulations!" to the officials of the PICPA and event organizers, with my sincerest wishes for the event's success.

(Sgd) GUILLERMO N. CARAGUE
Chairman
Commission on Audit



The officers and members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) have worked hard to pull their 2005 National Convention together. Our warmest congratulations!

Let me also take this occasion to extend our congratulations to PICPA for being honored as the Most Outstanding Accredited Professional Organization for 2005 by the Professional Regulation Commission.

An important concern of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is to help ensure that investors can make decisions on the basis of reliable, complete, and timely information. Investors should have access to financial reports and statements that have been subjected to independent and high quality audits. In this regard, what accountants do matters greatly? You prepare, audit, and present financial statements of business enterprises - making you one of the important links in the communication chain of the corporate sector. As accountants, you are the professional allies of the SEC.

I trust that the various activities you lined up in your Annual Convention will keep you steadfast to your professional principles and responsibilities and attuned to global standards. Rest assured that the SEC is committed to supporting your efforts in these areas.

(Sgd) FE B. BARIN
Chairperson
Securities and Exchange Commission

PICPA through the years

From page F2

years, 1975 and 1976. In 1975, the Professional Regulation Commission granted the Certificate of Accreditation which singled out PICPA as the sole professional organization of CPAs in the Philippines.

In 1976, PICPA initiated the holding of the First Forum of Accountants of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean). This was facilitated by Reyes, past national president Francisco Gonzales IV and Desiderio M. Casiño. In this forum, the Asean Federation of Accountants was established.

The constitution and by-laws was also revised during Reyes' term to provide for the creation of the sectoral groups and regional councils.

In 1978, during the time of Corazon S. dela Paz, PICPA hosted the first Asean Federation of Accountants Conference. Eugenio Reyes became the first Filipino president of the Federation.

In 1979, during the second term of Dela Paz, the 9th CAPA Conference was held in the Philippines. This was made possible with the help of former presidents Eduardo M. Villanueva and Gregorio S. Licaros.

International Organization (1980s)

During the time of Carlota P. Valenzuela (1980-1981), PICPA took its seat for the first in the International Federation of Accountants with Washington Sycip as the president this international organization. On the other hand, Eduardo M. Villanueva became the Filipino president of CAPA. He served until 1983. The CAPA secretariat was transferred to Manila and Rose Manahan was appointed as executive director.

The PICPA Foundation was also established to help ensure the implementation of PICPA projects.

Desiderio M. Casino was president for two terms, 1982 and 1983. During his time, the Accounting Standards Council (ASC) was established. The ASC was

PICPA/ F4

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PICPA through the years

From page F3

mandated to implement and raise the standard of the profession by establishing guidelines for the accounting profession. This drew the support of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Professional Regulation Commission, and Financial Executives. Carlos Alindada, who became president in 1989, was the first and present chair of the ASC.

Jose G. Araullo was president for two successive years, 1985-1986. His term was marked with the establishment of the Auditing Standards and Practices Council with Luis C. Diaz as its first chairman. The council was mandated to implement and to spread nationwide the acceptance of the auditing standards and practices. The members of the council were independent and prestigious auditing firms, PICPA, ACPAPP, BOA, SEC and COA.

The PICPA Training Center was created in cooperation with the SGV Foundation and PICPA Foundation. The center became the venue for seminars of the Committee on Education and Project EXCEL. Alice Reyes was at the helm in ensuring the financial viability of the project.

The Continuing Professional Education Council was also established in cooperation with the Board of Accountancy with Fortunato B. Cruz, president from 1987 to 1988 as head of the project.

In 1988, the 6th AFA Conference was launched by PICPA. Then national president Fortunato B. Cruz was supported by Eduardo B. de Guia (president, 1997) who served as conference chair and Dr. Mariano M. Lerin (president, 1991) who was then president of AFA. It was dubbed as the most successful AFA Conference.

In 1989, under president Carlos Alindada's term, PICPA was recognized by PRC as having fulfilled the requirements for the accredited professional organization of CPAs in the country.

Creation of councils (1990s)

The provision of the new constitution and by-Laws to create sectoral and regional councils was implemented in 1990 with Antonio P. Acyatan as the national president.

The year 1991 saw the continued implementation of the new constitution and by-Laws. Mariano M. Lerin highlighted the education sector, introduced significant revisions in the Accountancy curriculum and underscored the importance of professional development. The Annual Teachers Conference was instituted in coordination with ACPAE and PICPA Foundation.

It was in 1992 when cooperatives were given due recognition in nation-building. Then president Froilan G. Ampil was ensured that cooperatives were given the needed assistance by coordinating with PICPA through an agreement that it signed with the Cooperative Development Authority, Land Bank of the Philippines, and FINEX.

In 1993, Benjamin R. Punongbayan was the national president. A study was then initiated to the implementation of the earlier agreements for the construction of a new PICPA building.

The Government Sector was highlighted and given due importance when in 1994, Roberto B. Pison took over the presidency of the Institute,

1995 was a great year for the Institute. With Voltaire P. Arzadon as the president, the present PICPA Building was constructed. This was made possible through accumulated donations and help from supporters like SGV and Co., Metro Manila Regional Council, Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry, Joaquin Cunanan and Co., Carlos J. Valdes and Co., and PICPA in Chicago. PRC also awarded PICPA as the Outstanding Accredited Professional Organization.

In 1996, through the recommendation of Delgado R. Uy, the Sustaining Life Membership Program was continued to raise funds for the Institute. There was also massive fund-raising from the general membership to help finance the completion of the building project. During this year, PICPA was granted by PRC and SEC another 50 years corporate life.

The CPE on the Road was launched in 1997 with Eduardo B. de Guia as national president. The project gave free seminars that enabled CPAs in the provinces to comply with the CPE requirements. It reached 25 places throughout the country and benefited 2,000 members from 55 chapters nationwide.

It was also in 1997 that former president Antonio P. Acyatan became the third Filipino president of AFA. He served from 1998 to 1999. In CAPA on the other hand, past national president Carlos Alindanda was elected deputy president and was to serve as president of the confederation starting in 1999.

PICPA celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Accountancy Profession in the Philippines in 1998 during Mel B. Libre's time. The Library Committee launched the development of PICPA history over the years. A Summit of Leaders was also held. It was a gathering of past presidents of the Institute that would look into the current problems of the organization.

An active figure in the Education Sector, Danilo A. Principe's administration in

PICPA/ F7

The year 2004 with Pio D. Baconga at the helm, is very aptly timed as the new Accountancy Law was enacted in May just as the Institute celebrated its diamond year of relevant existence. Major changes in the PICPA's Constitution and By-laws are eyed in consonance with the provisions of Republic Act 9298, also known as the Accountancy Law of 2004.

Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants
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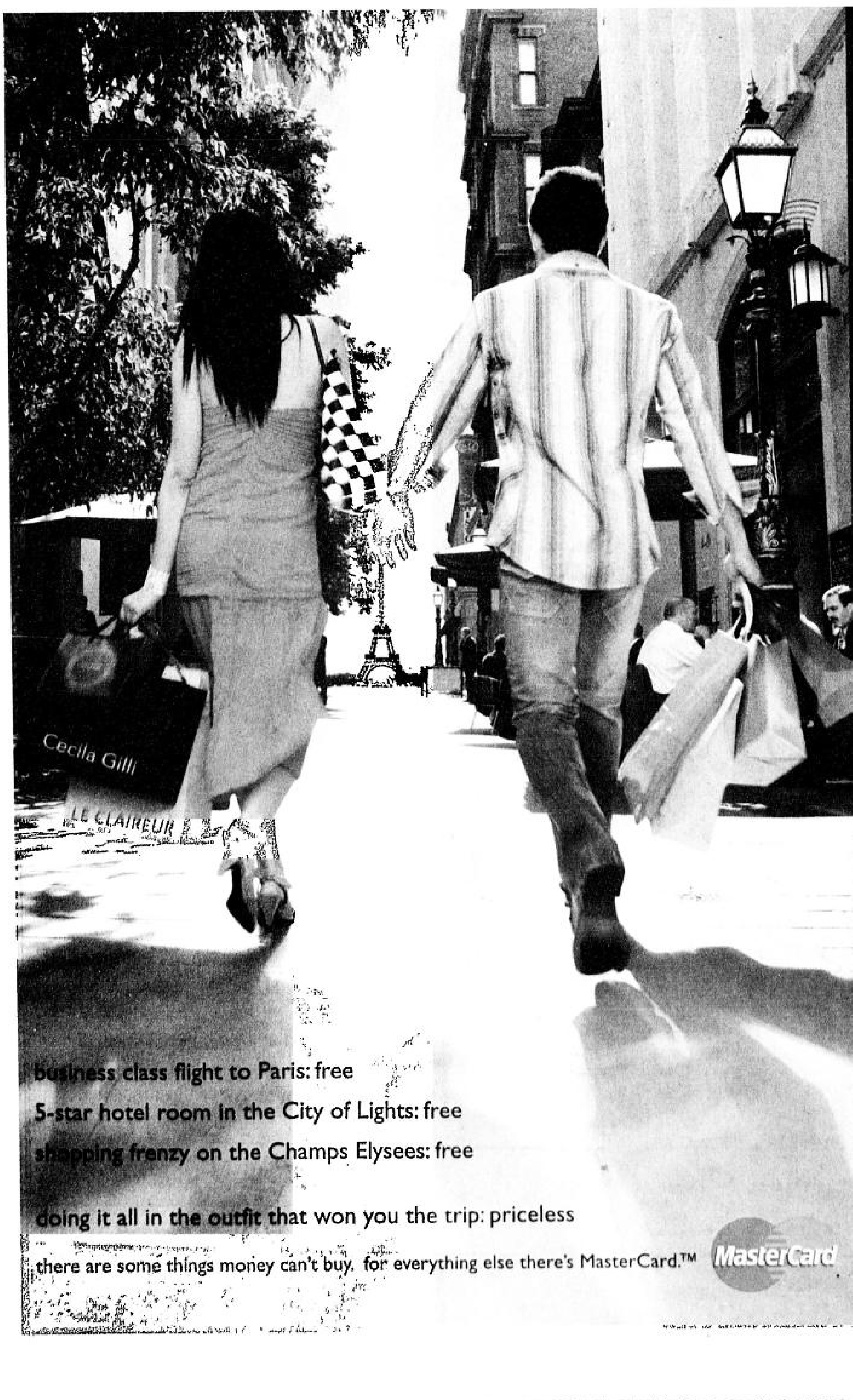

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The Mission & Vision of PICPA

Mission

PICPA IS THE GLOBALLY-RECOGNIZED AND INTEGRATED NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF FILIPINO CPAs IN ALL SECTORS.

ITS MISSION IS TO ENHANCE THE INTEGRITY OF THE ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION, SERVE THE BEST INTEREST OF ITS MEMBERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS, AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE ATTAINMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL OBJECTIVES.

THESE CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A RESPONSIVE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, COMMITTED LEADERSHIP, EFFECTIVE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ABREAST WITH STATE-OF-THE-ART TECHNOLOGY, STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, PROMOTION OF HIGH STANDARDS OF ACCOUNTING EDUCATION, AND ADVOCACY OF AND PARTICIPATION IN RELEVANT NATIONAL ISSUES.

Vision

"TO BE STRONG, DYNAMIC AND UNIFIED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF HIGHLY - RESPECTED, WORLD-CLASS AND SOCIALLY - COMMITTED CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS WORTHY OF ESTEEM OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE"

Get on... Move on!
PICPA
PRC Accredited Professional Organization of CPAs

THE ANC Working Committee

CORE VALUES

PICPA adheres to the highest ideals of professionalism and commitment to service and upholds the values of:

- INTEGRITY - We advocate the TRUTH and conduct ourselves at all times with honesty, uprightness and adherence to sound moral principles, thereby gaining the respect of the public.
- PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE - We are committed to render excellent professional service to every member and to the profession.
- INNOVATION - We seek and apply new ideas to improve performance. We continuously promote creativity, flexibility and resourcefulness amidst constant change.
- DISCIPLINE - We stricly adhere to the code of professional conduct promulgated by the Institute while promoting the highest spiritual, moral and ethical standards.
- TEAMWORK - We uphold a strong bond of unity, working in the spirit of harmony and commonality.
- SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - We commit ourselves to a strong, active and devoted sense of duty to society.
- COMMITMENT - We bind ourselves to uphold these ideals to ensure the accomplishment of PICPA's Mission and attainment of PICPA's Vision.

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2005 PICPA Annual National Convention

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

November 23, 2005 Wednesday	November 24, 2005 Thursday	November 25, 2005 Friday	November 26, 2005 Saturday
AM **Opening of Trade Exhibits (8 AM)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt. City **Registration of Delegates / Participants (8 AM)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt. City **Business Opportunities Seminar (8 AM – 5 PM)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt. City **Golf Tournament (8 AM – 1 PM)** Club Intramuros, Golf Course Intramuros Manila **Bowling Tournament (8 AM – 12 NN)** Paeng's Midtown Bowl Robinson's Place-Manila 2nd Level, M Adriatico, Ermita, Manila **2005 PICPA Badminton Open (8:30 AM – 4:30 PM)** Intramuros Badminton Center 606 Basco St., Cor. Sta. Potenciana, Intramuros, Manila	**AM** **Registration of Delegates/Participants (8 AM)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt. City **Educator's Forum** Topic: **"The New CHED Proposed Curriculum for Bachelor of Science in Accountancy"** Speaker: Dr. John S. Bala Chair, CHED Technical Committee on Accountancy Education Topic: **"The Revised CPA Licensure Examination Syllabi"** Speaker: Hon. Ma. Elenita B Cabrera Member, Board of Accountancy San Juan de Letran College, Intramuros, Manila	Please see details below	**AM** **Plenary Technical Session (8 - 9 AM)** Topic: "CPE" Speakers: Dean Ester F. Ledesma Chair, PICPA CPE Council Mr. Erwin Vincent G. Alcala Vice Chair, PICPA CPE Council Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Manila **Tax Forum (9 AM)** Topic: "Tax Assessments and VAT Enhancements" Speakers: Mr. Joel L. Tan-Torres Partner SGV & Co. Atty. Victorino C. Mamalateo Managing Partner V. C. Mamalateo & Associates Guest Speaker: Atty. Jose Mario C. Buñag Commissioner Bureau of Internal Revenue Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila **Closing Plenary**
NOON **Registration of Delegates / Participants (Cont.)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt. City **Business Opportunities Seminar (Cont.)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt City	**NOON** **Registration of Delegates/Participants (Cont.)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt. City		**NOON** **Annual Business Meeting** Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel, Manila
PM **Registration of Delegates / Participants (Cont.)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt City **Business Opportunities Seminar (Cont.)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt. City **Chapter's Presidents Meeting (1 – 7 PM)** Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt City	**PM** **Registration of Delegates/Participants (Cont.)** Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Mkt City Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila **Eucharistic Celebration (3 PM)** Manila Cathedral Intramuros Manila **PICPA Parade (4 PM)** Manila Cathedral to Fort Santiago Intramuros Manila **Opening & National Awarding Ceremonies (5 PM)** Fort Santiago Intramuros Manila Keynote Speaker: Hon Manuel B Villar Jr. Senator, Republic of the Philippines		*Welcome to Manila!*

November 25, Friday			
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY SECTOR Grand Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental Manila, Makati City	EDUCATION SECTOR Emperor's Court, New World Hotel Makati City	GOVERNMENT SECTOR Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City	PUBLIC PRACTICE SECTOR Grand Ballroom, Heritage Hotel, Pasay City
TECHNICAL SESSION I (8 AM) Topic: **"One Step Forward: Meeting Global Expectations"** Speaker: **Mr. David L. Balangue** PICPA National President Topic: **"Global Trends and Competitiveness"** Speaker: **Mr. Joaquin P. Quintos** General Manager IBM Philippines, Inc. TECHNICAL SESSION II (10:30 AM) Topic: **"Securities and Exchange Commission Updates"** Speaker: **Atty. Jose P. Aquino** Director Securities & Exchange Commission	TECHNICAL SESSION I (8 AM) Topic: **"One Step Forward: Meeting Global Expectations"** Speaker: **Mr. David L. Balangue** PICPA National President Topic: **"The Philippine CPA in the Midst of Change"** **"The International Accounting Education Standards: A Response to Global Competition"** Speaker: **Dr. Jaime C. Laya** Chairman Emeritus KPMG Laya Mananghaya & Co.	TECHNICAL SESSION I (8 AM) Topic: **"One Step Forward: Meeting Global Expectations"** Speaker: **Mr. David L. Balangue** PICPA National President Topic: **Roundtable Discussion: "Global Competition: Hazards and Rewards"** **"The Philippine CPA in the Midst of Changes in the Global Marketplace"** Panelists: **Hon. Guillermo N. Carague** Chairman Commission on Audit **Hon. Corazon S. de la Paz** President and CEO Social Security System **Hon. Nieves L. Osorio** **President and CEO** **Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corp.** **Hon. Cayetano W. Paderanga, Jr.** President & CEO, PNOC Manager Development Corporation **Hon. Augusto B. Santos** Director – General, National Economic and Dev't Authority Moderator: **Ms. Adela L. Dondonilla** President Phil. Association of State Corporate Auditors	TECHNICAL SESSION I (8 AM) Topic: **"One Step Forward: Meeting Global Expectations"** Speaker: **Mr. David L. Balangue** PICPA National President Topic: **"Global Competition: Hazards and Rewards"** Speaker: **Mr. Jerome B. Constantino** Managing Partner, Constantino Guadalquiver & Co. Topic: **"The Philippine CPA in the Midst of Change in the Marketplace"** Speaker: **Atty. Antonio P. Acyatan** Chairman A. P. Acyatan & Co., CPAs TECHNICAL SESSION II (11 AM) Topic: **"Our RoadMap to Quality Service"** Speaker: **Mr. Jerry S. Isla** Chairman and Senior Partner Isla Lipana & Co.
LUNCHEON MEETING (12 NN) Topic: **"Get On... Move On... to Global Competitiveness"** Speaker: **Ms. Leah Nuyda** **VP Marketing** **GMA Network, Inc.** **Entertainers** **Pinoy Pop Superstars, Finalists, Season 2**	LUNCHEON MEETING (12 NN) Topic: **"The Mutual Recognition Agreement for CPAs in the ASEAN Region"** Speaker: **Hon. Avelina A. de la Rea** Commissioner Professional Regulation Commission	LUNCHEON MEETING (12 NN) Topic: **"Get On... Move On... to Global Competitiveness"** Speaker: **Hon. Franklin M. Drilon** Senate President Senate of the Philippines	
TECHNICAL SESSION III (1:00 PM) Topic **"Making the Philippines Your Outsourcing Destination"** Speaker: **Mr. Ramon J. Dimacali** President Federal Phoenix Assurance Co., Inc.	TECHNICAL SESSION II (1:00 PM) Topic: **"Board of Accountancy Updates"** Speaker: **Hon. Eugene T. Mateo** Chairman Board of Accountancy	TECHNICAL SESSION II (1:30 PM) Topic: **"E-Procurement Act: A Step to Globalization"** Speaker: **Atty. Estanislao C. Granados** Executive Director V Department of Budget and Management TECHNICAL SESSION III (3:00 PM) Topic: **"The Lifestyle Check: How it Affects the Government CPAs"** Speaker: **Hon. Laura B. Pascua** Undersecretary Department of Budget and Management	TECHNICAL SESSION III (1:30 PM) Topic: **Roundtable Discussion: "Threats and Opportunities to Local Auditing Firms and Actions Steps"** Panelists: **Mr. Arturo N. Dalupan** Chairman, Diaz Murillo Dalupan **Dr. Conchita L. Manabat** Managing Partner C. L. Manabat & Co **Mr. Mario T. Mananghaya** Managing Partner Laya Mananghaya & Co **Mr. Gregorio S. Navarro** Managing Partner Punongbayan and Araullo **Mr. George V. Villaruz** Senior Partner Villaruz, Villaruz & Co., CPAs **Mr. Gemilo J. San Pedro** Senior Partner, SGV & Co Moderator **Atty. Rosario S. Bernaldo,** Managing Partner R. S. Bernaldo & Associates
Region & Chapter Awards & Regional Presentation 6:00 PM, Poolside, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Makati City			

PICPA ANC Committees

Samuel F. Villacampa
Chair, 2005 PICPA ANC Committee

Gerard B. Sanvictores
Chair, 2005 PICPA ANC Host Committee

Elvira P. Atanacio
Special Events

Aphat C. Martinez
Opening and National Awarding Ceremonies

Cynthia Molina
Food & Beverage

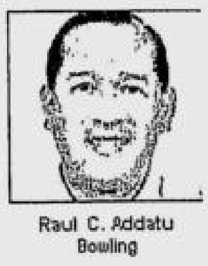
Antonio V. Cruz
Sports Activities

Evely L. Chun Peng
Registration

Zenaida P. Alcantara
Chapter Awards

Ruperto P. Somera
Educator's Forum

Juanito G. Espino, Jr.
Ways & Means


Raul C. Addatu
Bowling

Julie A. Tamayao
Budget & Finance

Aldrin Cerrado
Business Opportunities Seminar

Liwayway F. Gener
Eucharistic Celebration & Parade (Chair)

Liberty M. Toledo
Eucharistic Celebration & Parade (Co-Chair)

Valentine B. Arolaga
Food & Beverage

Ma. Teresita Dimaculanga
Trade Exhibit

Ma. Luisa B. Villacorta
Publicity & Promotions

Jaime P. Naranjo
Quick Response

Donato P. Danao
Golf

Antonio P. Teoson
Souvenir Program

Marydith C. Miguel
Technical Session

Henry M. Tan
Badminton

Eduardo B. de Guia
Adviser

Jose A. Gangan
Adviser

Messages

I salute the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) on the occasion of its 2005 Annual National Convention, I salute PICPA, too, for choosing "get on ... move on ... to GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS" as its Convention theme.

The theme does not only befit the needs and the demands of the present times; it also reflects PICPA's unwavering commitment to hoist the nation's standing in the global market. I am pleased to know that the government is not alone in this endeavor.

We, Filipinos, have earned - rightly - the reputation of being one of the best workers worldwide. That should spur us on instead of making us complacent. We must continue to get on ... move on ... We need to continuously improve ourselves to ensure the Filipino's global competitiveness.

I hope this year's Convention will be an instrument in furthering our worker's competitiveness, particularly in the accounting profession.

Thank you and mabuhay kayong lahat!

(Sgd) ROMULO L. NERI
Secretary
Department of Budget & Management

I extend my warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants on the occasion of your Annual National Convention. I also commend PICPA on an excellent choice of theme: "get on... move on... to Global Competitiveness".

On behalf of the Professional Regulation Commission, I congratulate your organization for taking a leadership stance in facing relevant issues that currently affect the accounting profession. Certified Public Accountants hold a position of crucial importance in fields where there is a need for transparency and integrity. Such principles form the cornerstone of good governance. Such principles form the foundation of the government's economic enterprise and therefore of nation building. As PRC Chairperson, I am delighted that PICPA has undertaken this responsibility of upholding and promoting the tradition of professional excellence among your ranks through this Convention. We, at the PRC, remain fully supportive of this worthy endeavor.

Meanwhile, I urge the participants of this Convention to seize this chance to increase their proficiency and to encourage each other in the pursuit of excellence. The fellowship activities that PICPA has organized seem to offer a healthy balance of work and play while promoting a healthy spirit of camaraderie. Relish these opportunities and enjoy the learning experiences that the Convention offers you. May they serve you well in your profession as certified public accountants.

Mabuhay!

(Sgd) LEONOR TRIPON-ROSERO
Chairperson
Professional Regulation Commission

In behalf of the Board of Accountancy, I would like to convey our warmest greetings and commendations to the organizers and participants of the 2005 PICPA Annual National Convention of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants to be held on November 23-26, 2005 at Manila and Makati City.

Your convention theme "get on... move on... to Global Competitiveness" is indeed very appropriate and timely. In this day and age, the world is no longer what it used to be. With the advent of the New Economy, there are higher demands for efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness. With barrier-free business and state of the art communication as pillars of globalization, the pace of the change has never been this fast. The manifest reality of the current economic developments affecting the financial and corporate worlds calls for an accounting profession who is capable to respond to the needs of the times. As CPAs with a mission --- that of bring the business world's most trusted advisors, it becomes necessary for all of us to be professionally competent. Moreover, we must continue to pursue what is right with compassion and dedication, strong sense of morality, independence and integrity. As wave after wave of advancements come our way, we must learn to ride at the crest and not at the bottom. Mastery over modernization is the only way we could stay afloat and achieve the extraordinary. This gathering serves as a good venue for addressing such concerns.

Please accept my best wishes for a fruitful and successful convention.

(Sgd) EUGENE T. MATEO
Chairman
Board of Accountancy

I extend the heartiest of congratulations and warm wishes to the men and women of PICPA as we all celebrate the 2005 PICPA Annual National Convention!

This year, our Convention is guided by the theme, "get on... move on... to Global Competitiveness!" Our theme captures the continuing thrust of your Institute to propel the Philippine CPA to his rightful place in the new economic environment marked by increasing globalization.

This period in our profession's history should be marked by the CPA's preeminence in the profession as well as his leadership role. More evident in today's professions, especially accounting and auditing, are definitive moves towards globalization and borderless economies. PICPA is at the forefront of ensuring that the Philippine CPA is able to effectively deliver the expectations of the profession's global stakeholders: the investing public, regulators, government, and peers. We should constantly aim for leadership in our chosen profession, transparency in all our actions particularly as professionals, and exercise of governance in the discipline.

On behalf of the National Board of Directors as well as your sectoral and regional officer corps, I welcome everyone with a resounding MABUHAY! and wish you all a fruitful and auspicious Annual National Convention.

(Sgd) DAVID L. BALANGUE
PICPA National President

PICPA through the years

From page F4

1999 saw the promotion of Seminars on Environmental Accounting with some support from USAID. Also launched was the formal partnership of PICPA and BIR for issues on tax accounting. PICPA also released "Tax File," a publication to expose policies on taxation.

During the same year, the 11th AFA Conference was held in Davao. It was hosted by the local chapter under Frances Monje.

International Accounting Standards (2000s)

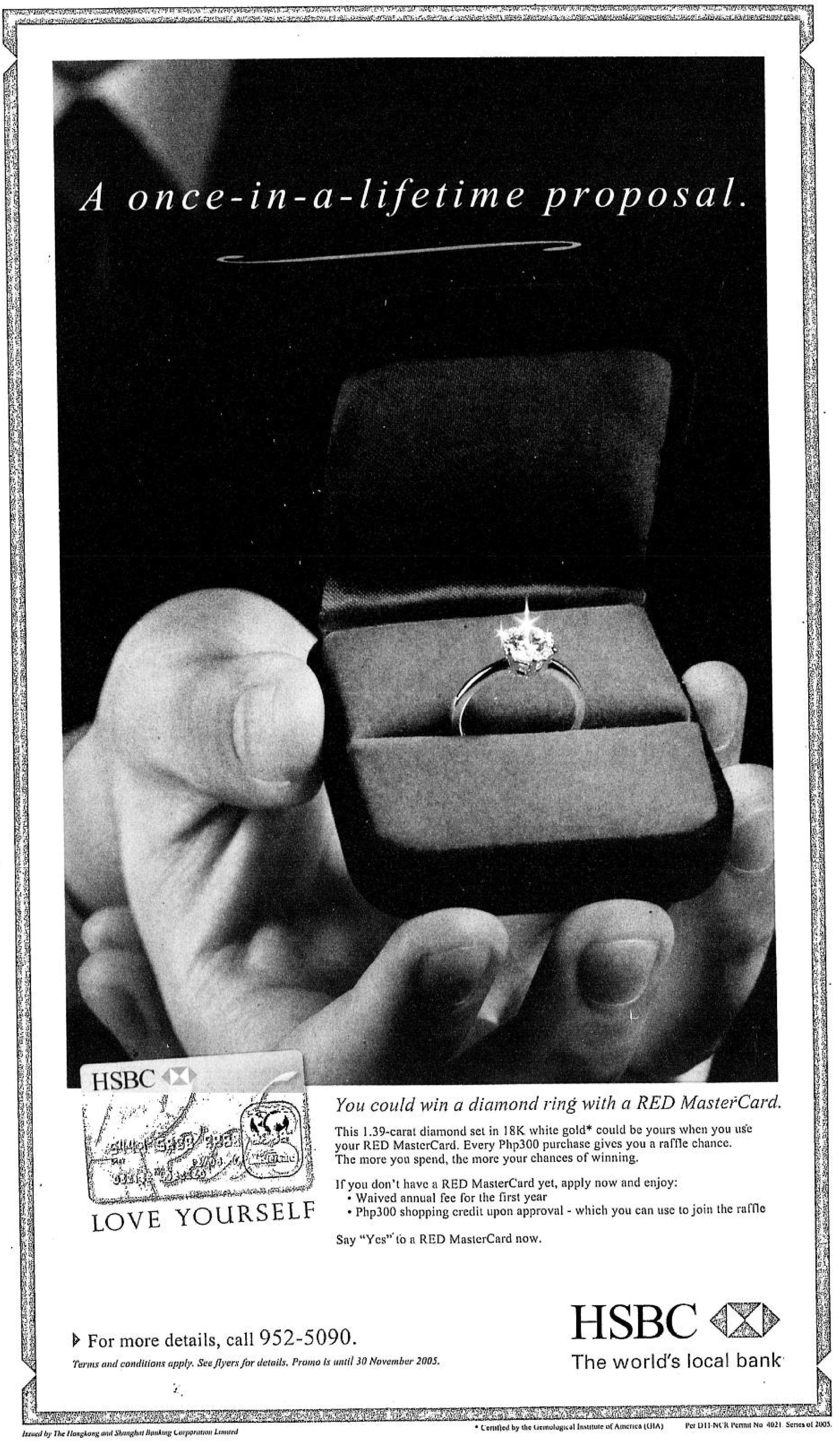
Bebe-i S. Gonzales was national president in 2000 when the 9th CAPA Conference was held in Manila. It was chaired by Eduardo B. de Guia and incoming president Jose A. Gangan with PICC and Intramuros as the venues. There was another revision of the Institute's Constitution and By-laws. This committee was chaired by PNP Mel B. Libre.

Under the able leadership of Gangan in 2001, new administrative tactics were introduced for the effective implementation of plans and programs. The CPE on the road was also re-launched.

In 2002, then national president Carlito B. Fuentesfina and his team instituted new rules for the hosting of national conventions by the provincial chapters. There was also a new mandate to implement the International Accounting Standards. The Accounting Standards Council and SEC actively assisted strengthening PICPA in strengthening the practice of certified public accounting in the country.

During the presidency of Crisanto F. Castro Jr. in 2003, membership of PICPA was given full attention due to the steady decline of members in good standing in most of the chapters. It is during this time that efforts to amend the Accountancy Law were initialized and one of these is the restoration of the Continuing Professional Education.

The year 2004 with Pio D. Baconga at the helm, is very aptly timed as the new Accountancy Law was enacted in May just as the Institute celebrated its diamond year of relevant existence. Major changes in the PICPA's Constitution and By-laws are eyed in consonance with the provisions of Republic Act 9298, also known as the Accountancy Law of 2004.



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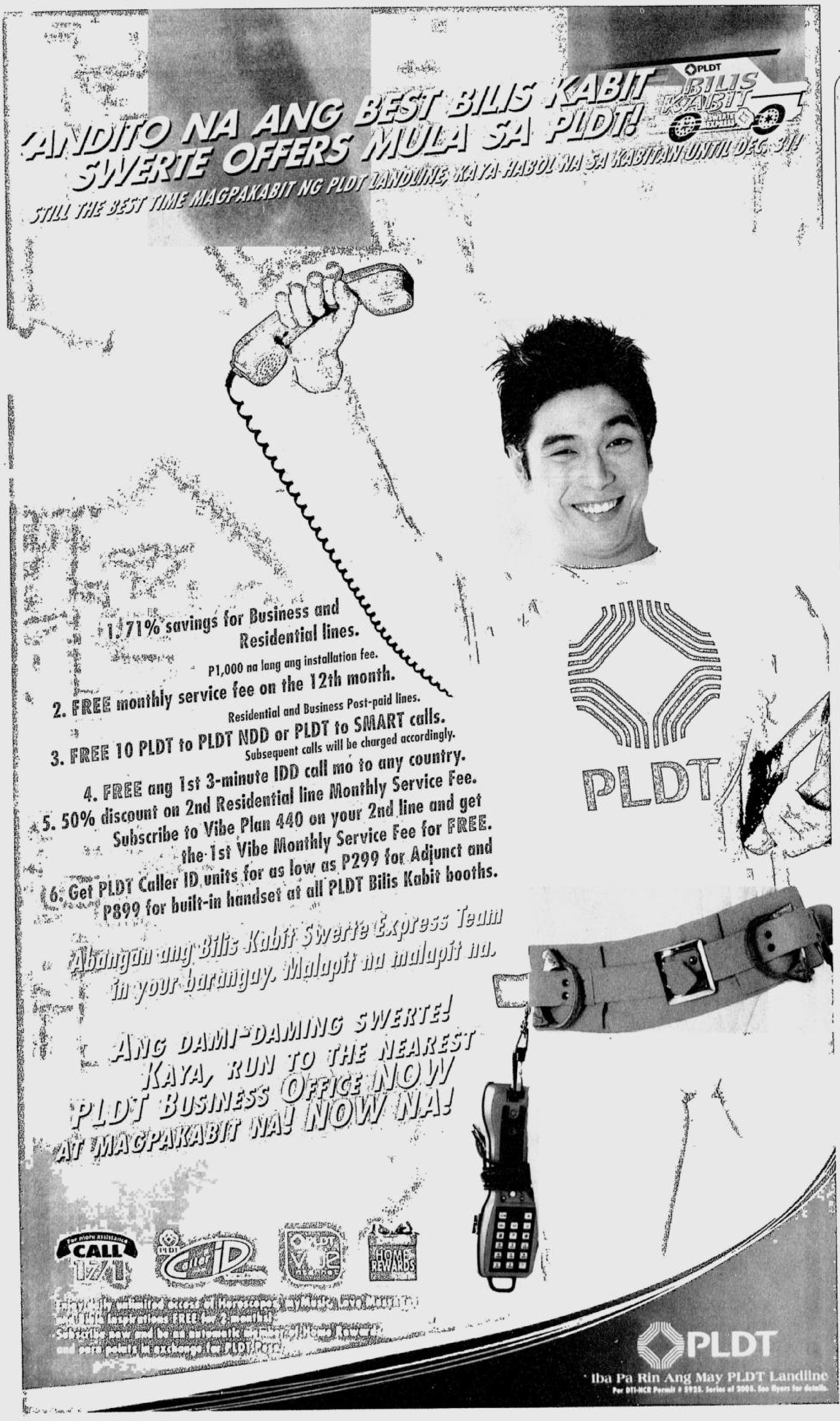

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Messages

We cap the year with one of the anticipated and memorable events of our profession, the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) 2005 Annual Convention on November 23-26, 2005 in Manila and Makati City. On behalf of the PICPA Metro Manila Region, your host, and the four chapters comprising the region, the Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern Metro Manila Chapters, I would like to extend our warm welcome to all the delegates and guests from all corners of the country in this year's annual convention

This year's theme, "get on ... move on ... to GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS," is very timely as we face the challenges of globalization. The world has become a global village that trade barriers have been dismantled and economy has become borderless, hence, we have to make a self assessment on how globally competitive we are in facing the realities of the ever changing landscape of our profession. This year's convention focuses on the relevant issues on global competitiveness affecting the public practice, commerce and industry, education and government sectors of our profession with the hope that every Filipino CPA in every sector will positively respond to the call to reposition himself in facing the challenges of the global economy and will make a difference by proving that we can be globally competitive and catalysts of change in leading our country to economic progress and stability. Join us in this journey of discovering and making a reality check thru a comprehensive discussion by leaders in the profession, business and government.

I would like to commend the men and women behind the Committee on Annual National Convention and the officers and members of the four Metro Manila Chapters for their commitment and all out support in making this year's commemoration a success.

Mabuhay tayong lahat and God bless us All!!!

(Sgd) GEORGE V. VILLARUZ
Chairman
PICPA Metro Manila Region

On behalf of the organizing committee, I welcome you to our 2005 Annual National Convention under the theme "Get On, Move On - To Global Competitiveness".

The challenge for CPAs to continually improve and to keep themselves at par with their international counterparts continues. PICPA, in the midst of all these changes in the accountancy profession, is in the forefront and an active partner in enriching and harnessing the technical competencies of Filipino CPAs.

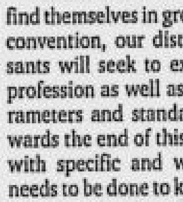
With the advent of globalization, Filipino CPAs find themselves in great demand abroad. In this year's convention, our distinguished speakers and discussants will seek to explore this marketplace for our profession as well as define in certain terms, the parameters and standards by which we can play. Towards the end of this conference, we aim to come up with specific and workable action plans on what needs to be done to keep us in competition both in the local and global markets.

I take this opportunity to extend my warmest gratitude to all our advisers, chairs and members of the various working committees for lending their precious time, talents and ingenuity to ensure the success of this convention.

In the meantime, let us set aside politics and the socio-economic woes of our country, but instead focus on what we must do to elevate ourselves to the level of world class professionals. Let us also take this opportunity to enjoy the camaraderie of our peers and widen our alliances with our fellow CPAs from all parts of the country.

Thank you.

(Sgd) SAMUEL F. VILLACAMPA
Chair
2005 Annual National Convention Committee



Welcome to the 2005 PICPA Annual National Convention!

Our theme for this year is "get on... move on... to Global Competitiveness" - a theme that aptly describes our organization's goal of creating a stronger professional alliance that will be recognized as global leaders of our profession.

The 2005 Annual National Convention Organizing Committee has prepared different activities for this year's delegates. They include technical sessions, which will increase our understanding of the most relevant issues that affect the accounting profession today; sports events, which will foster camaraderie and teamwork; and social activities, which will provide us with the opportunity to rekindle old friendships and build new ones. It is our hope that this Convention will serve as a stepping stone in helping us achieve our goal.

On behalf of the ANC Organizing Committee, I would like to thank you all for your support and active participation in our organization.

(Sgd) GERARD B. SANVICTORES
Chairman
2005 Annual National Convention
Host Committee